

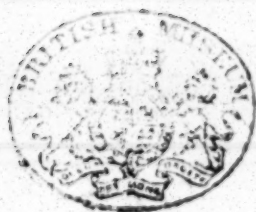
SOME
ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE
AND
GOSPEL LABOURS
OF
WILLIAM RECKITT.

Thomas Harris

L O N D O N :

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MDCCLXXVI.



A TESTIMONY from our Monthly Meeting at Wainfleet, in the County of Lincoln, concerning our deceased Friend WILLIAM RECKITT.

THIS our worthy friend was born in the year 1706, within the compass of Gainſborough monthly meeting, of parents professing truth, who died when he was young. His friends put him apprentice to a weaver belonging to the same monthly meeting, with whom we believe he served his time faithfully, and then came to live near Partney Mills, within the compass of our monthly meeting. After some time, about the year 1742, it pleased the Lord to call him into the

work of the ministry : his appearance from the first was in the life and wisdom of Truth, which nearly united him to his friends. Soon after he removed to Wainfleet particular meeting ; and some time after he visited friends in the West of England, and Wales, &c. and at different times many other counties ; also Ireland once with our friend Samuel Stott. He was twice in America: the first time he set forward in the year 1756, and, it being in the time of war, was taken prisoner into France, and confined about six months, which he bore with Christian fortitude (as some of us have heard him say) and got well home to his family in the beginning of the year 1757, where he staid about four weeks, and then again set forward for his intended visit. He afterwards found a weighty concern to visit his friends

friends in some part of America again ; all which visits, by sundry accounts received, were much to friends satisfaction, as well as his own : and indeed it may be truly said, he was deep in the ministry, and powerful in prayer, his testimony sound, and edifying, which rendered him very near, and valuable to many. He was grave in conversation, yet innocently cheerful amongst his friends ; an affectionate husband, and a tender parent. We think it needless to enlarge concerning him, as he was well known to many friends ; only we may, with sincerity of heart, say, his removal is much regretted in general. In the latter end of 1768, he had drawings in his mind to visit London, and parts adjacent ; in which he told some of his near friends, he thought it might be the last time.

He

He returned home in the first month, in the year 1769, but poorly in health, and continued so; but mostly attended his own meeting, where he had several weighty testimonies (which had more than usual influence over the hearers, leaving lasting impressions on their minds) as well as at times in private conversation, wherein he signified he was willing to leave all these transitory and fading enjoyments, whenever it might please the Lord to call him from works to rewards.

His illness was very short; he was taken with a fit of the ague the day before his departure, and next morning, about four o'clock, exchanged this life, we make no doubt, for a better, the sixth of the fourth month 1769, and was buried the 9th of the same in friends burying ground at Wainfleet,

fleet, after a solemn meeting, where
a living testimony was borne to the
truth, and to the satisfaction of
many present.

Signed in and on behalf of the
said meeting, held the 16th of the
third month 1770, by

John Robbins,
John Copeland,
Thomas Reckitt,
David Hopkins,
Jonathan Nainby,
George Kitching,
Pearson Smith,
John Pearson,
Joseph Burton,
John Wright, jun.

The foregoing testimony con-
cerning our dear friend William
Reckitt, deceased, was read and
approved in our quarterly meeting
held at Lincoln the fourth of the
fourth

[viii]

fourth month 1770, and signed in
and on behalf thereof, by

JOHN MASSEY, jun. clerk.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

OUR late worthy friend WILLIAM RECKITT, whose journal follows, was one whom the Lord was pleased to prepare for his service; and having in a good degree experienced the work of righteousness to be peace, he was engaged, under the influence of divine love, to call to others to come, taste, and see how good the Lord is.

His life and conversation were innocent, and consistent with his profession, and, in the exercise of his ministry, he was attended with that love which seeks the good of all.

As the following journal commences only with his voyage to America, a short account of him, of the work of truth on his mind, and of his services before he embarked for America, seems not improper.

He was born at Lea near Gainfborough in Lincolnshire, about the year 1706, of parents professing truth; his mother died when he was young, and his father being through infirmities rendered incapable of supporting his children, he was bound by friends at nine years of age, until he arrived at twenty-one, as an apprentice to a weaver; which proved a laborious servitude, his master being in low circumstances. In the course of his service his master let him out to harvest work, in which employment his industry gained him the confidence of the farmer

farmer that employed him, who thought it unnecessary to look after him, saying, " William was " a faithful servant ;" as he was to his master to the end of his apprenticeship. During which time he was reached by a divine visitation, through the ministry of a friend on a religious visit, whose testimony (as he has been heard to relate) clearly answered the witness of truth in his own heart, and fully confirmed him, that the principles of friends were consonant with the Holy Scriptures ; and he then thought there would be none so void of understanding, as not to be convinced by the same powerful declaration of the true Christian faith. It left a lasting impression on his mind ; an hunger and thirst after righteousness were begotten in his soul ; and by a diligent attention to the dictates thereof, he experienced preservation

tion from the many temptations, which unguarded youth are exposed to. About the eighteenth year of his age, the death of an only sister, a virtuous young woman, who had been particularly kind to him, nearly affected him; and an only brother, by giving way to the vanities of the world, was drawn aside, and left the society. These events impressed his mind with deep sorrow and humiliation; but feeling the preserving hand of divine goodness manifested for his support, he was engaged to live near thereto, by which he was mercifully preserved.

Soon after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he removed into the compass of Wainfleet monthly meeting in Lincolnshire, where he followed the business of a weaver, and increased in the esteem
of

of his friends ; being a man who laboured to be in reality what he professed. In the year 1731, he entered into the marriage state with Ellin Maw, a sober and virtuous young woman, who was an affectionate wife to him, and tender mother to their children : he survived her, she dying during his absence on his second visit to America.

About the thirty-sixth year of his age, he first appeared in the ministry to the satisfaction of friends, and laboured diligently in his own and some neighbouring meetings for the advancement of truth ; and after some time, in company with Robert Kinley, he visited the churches in Essex ; and about the latter end of 1745, in company with the same friend, also visited the city of London ; and his service in this visit is still remem-

remembered by some with brotherly regard and affection.

In 1746, he visited the West of England, and part of Wales ; and in 1752, in company with Samuel Stott of Edmundsbury, he visited Ireland, to his own and friends comfort and satisfaction, and returned home with peace of mind. In 1756, he visited Yorkshire ; soon after which, in the course of his religious labours, he found himself engaged to visit the churches in the American plantations, the ensuing account whereof will best inform the reader of his progress therein.

It is not intended to magnify the creature, by any thing which may be said concerning this our deceased friend ; but to shew the reader, that such as believe in, and live near to, the divine principle

ciple of truth in their own hearts, convey an evidence to the minds of those who behold them : for he being taken in his passage by a privateer (England being then at war with France) and carried into Morlaix, was there detained in a painful state of captivity, yet was preserved in great quietness and resignation, to the admiration of some of the French inhabitants ; one of whom, in a letter to a person residing in London, mentioned his inoffensive lamb-like behaviour, in terms of great respect, and when he was removed to Carhaix, recommended him to a person of account, a member of the parliament of Brittany, who likewise testified his regard to him. The kindness he received from these persons moderated his captivity, though he had many exercises there, which often brought him
very

very low ; yet, he found support
 and preservation, as he acknow-
 ledged in his letters, in one of
 which, after having noted how
 he had been helped, and expres-
 sing his care for his future pre-
 servation, he says : “ My fears
 “ have all been concerning my-
 “ self, for surely I never saw more
 “ of my own weakness, it hath
 “ indeed been a searching time to
 “ me ; and yet it springs in my
 “ heart to say, If the Lord hath
 “ any delight in me, he will
 “ bring me safe through all ; he
 “ knows the integrity of my heart :
 “ I did not set out in a forward
 “ spirit, but in his counsel, and
 “ in it at this time I stand ; he
 “ knows best what will be most
 “ for his own honour. And as
 “ to what will become of this
 “ earthly tabernacle, it seems to
 “ be the least of my care, so
 “ that

“ that I may finish my course
 “ with joy.”

After being detained about five months, he was released through the kindness of a person in England, who, having received very favourable impressions of him through the French merchant before mentioned, recommended him to the secretary of the sick and wounded office (they having the care of such as were prisoners), and after a short stay at home, finding the engagement remain, he returned to London, attended the yearly meeting, and, with the concurrence of friends, proceeded on his voyage, of which the following is his own relation.

[19]

S O M E
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
L I F E A N D T R A V E L S
O F
WILLIAM RECKITT.

Some account of what befel me in
my first voyage towards AMERICA.

HAVING parted with several
friends who accompanied me to
Gravesend, the fifteenth of the tenth
month 1756, I went on board the ship
Lydia, Joseph Riddell master. We
had three passengers besides myself,
who seemed to be very sober men, and
carried themselves very loving to me,

as likewise did all our common men ; though I often reprov'd them for swearing, and their bad language to one another. The 20th we came into the Downs, but the wind not being fair, we lay there till the 22d, when the wind coming more favourable, we weigh'd anchor.

It may not be amiss to mention the great exercise and weight that rested upon my spirit while we lay here, I then not seeing the cause of it. When I looked forward, I could see little further than the Land's End, and I cried in my mind that we might be carried, or driven to Ireland ; for then I thought I should get safe to my journey's end : but not seeing it would be so then, I only desired we might put into Plymouth, which I mentioned to the captain, and he told me, he thought he would. But the wind coming fair, and a strong gale, he was willing to make the best of it. We outfailed two ships which came from the Downs with us, one a privateer called the St. Olive, from London ;
the

the other a Guineaman. The 24th, about ten in the morning, we came abreast of Plymouth, with a very fine wind. In the evening, as I sat in the cabin, something opened in my mind concerning my own preservation, which I thought somewhat strange; but soon saw a cause for it. For about eight o'clock next morning, the mate came down and told his master, there was a French snow just astern of us, which, to our sorrow, was too true, for she was then within reach of us with her guns. I thought it was a great neglect of our master; and the sailors, that they did not keep a strict look-out; for they acknowledged, if they had but had a few hours more, they should not have been taken. But then it was too late, they could not get their sails all properly bent, as they would have done, if due precaution had been taken. The shot coming over us, I was afraid for our men.

During the little time we were chased, the chief care our captain seemed

seemed to take, was to save what he had, so he kept pretty much in the cabin, till his men called very earnestly for him to come upon deck. Then he ordered them to strike, and in a little time the Frenchmen came and boarded us with great fury. I was in the cabin, and stood still, some of them looking at me very sour and fierce, but like so many hungry animals, they fell to hunting and searching for what they could find, till they durst not stay much longer. One of them coming to me, in a fawning manner, said, Sir, I desire you would give me your money, and watch, and I will give you them again. I told him I had not much, and did not chuse to part with it. But he growing very earnest to have it, I turned myself about, and took three guineas out of my purse, two of which I carried on shore, and gave him the remainder. He looked at it, and seemed not satisfied; but the officers being in haste to get us all into the boat, I was had upon deck. When I looked at the sea, I thought it seemed as though I
 should

should not escape with my life ; therefore resolved to stay on board our vessel, if I might, and went down again into the cabin ; but in a little time was fetched out, and commanded to get into the boat. The fear of death was then taken away, and I was resolved to do the best I could to get in. One of our sailors handed me a rope, but it was so short, I was forced to let go, not knowing whether I should fall into the sea, or boat ; for the sea ran very high, and two of our men were lost during the short time I had been below. They were getting into the boat when I was seized with fear, and I saw it was not groundless ; for had I then proceeded to get in, I should in all probability have been drowned. For as soon as I had turned my back to go down into the cabin, the gunwale of the ship took the boat side, and had like to have sunk her, and the two poor men were cast out, the loss of whom sorrowfully affected my mind ; and the imminent danger I had been in, with a sense of the Lord's goodness and mercy in preserving me at that time,

time, brought me very low, in humble thankfulness for so great a deliverance, looking upon it as a mark of his tender care and fatherly regard for so poor a creature as I am.

When we came up to the French ship, our men assisted me in getting on board, and led me through a croud of such creatures, as I thought were more like brutes than men; but they offered me no violence. When I came into the cabin, I was placed behind a large chest of arms, which was their table; where I sat for several hours, very still, and laboured to get to such a right and true composure of mind, that I might be enabled to undergo, with patience, what was then befallen me.

The hurry about the booty being pretty much over, towards night they came to settle in the cabin; and seeing me take little notice of what they either said or did, they looked earnestly at me, and asked our captain who I was. He told them I was a Quaker minister,

minister, and intended for Pennsylvania, They made many fine speeches, and told me, I was welcome to any thing they had, and would have me call for what I wanted. When meat came to table, they invited me to eat ; but I told them I was not for eating, my appetite being quite gone. When they thought it was time for us to go to bed, I was had down into the hold, which was so close, and the hammocks hung so near to one another, I was forced to creep on my hands and knees, till I came to that I was to lodge in. The young man that conducted me was one of the officers, and I understood he put me in his own hammock. As he was making it fit, I thought he seemed to do it with a very good will ; but the place being strait, and I lying in all my clothes, made it hard work for me to get in. However, he staid and helped me what he could, till I was settled in my new lodging. A few hours after I had plenty of company. As they crept under me they lifted me up, and when they were all placed in their respective lodgings, I perceived

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some lay upon the boards under me. However, the closeness of the place, and the disagreeable smell, with a fear which then seized my mind, that these creatures would do me some mischief, had like to have quite overset me, so that I was nigh fainting away, and ready to query, whether I should live till morning. In this great strait the Lord appeared for my help. I sensibly felt strength administered, and it arose in my mind, that those I was afraid of would not hurt me. I believed it was the truth, and in a little time, being much wearied, I fell into a sound sleep till morning. When I came upon deck, our poor men came to me, and complained of their hard lodgings, and what was worse, the thoughts of a close imprisonment when they should come on shore. It made me sorrowful to hear their complaints, for they had heard the prisoners fared very poorly. I spake as comfortably as I could, and exhorted them to live in the fear of the Lord. This day we came up with a vessel bound for Plymouth, taken from the French by
one

one of our ships of war. The French soon brought her to, boarded her, and brought all the men to us but one. The two officers were had into the cabin where we were. The captain being a man of very strong passions, to be taken prisoner was almost more than he could bear : When they were fate down, I saw he was almost overcome with grief, which I a little wondered at. After some time I went and sat by him, and said I would not have him too much cast down ; trouble and disappointment happened to all men, and this was what such men as he might reasonably expect. He said nothing as I remember, but soon went out, and after a while came again with a Frenchman along with him, who could speak English, and pretended great friendship to me, and requested that I would go along with him and the captain into a private place, for he was desirous to have some discourse with me. It did not seem to suit my inclination, but through their much importuning me, I went. When we were settled, the Englishman told me,

he had been attended with misfortunes even from his childhood, and thought he had been in a fair way of making his fortune, but he had met with this disappointment, which was like to be a great loss to him. He then began to talk about religion, and expressed a great desire in his heart to live in the fear of the Lord. He spoke highly of the ceremonies used amongst them, mentioning baptism with water, and bread and wine, which they call the sacrament. I told him we were not in the practice of using them, believing such ceremonies not to be essential to salvation. He said I was a strange man, but finding myself not at all disposed to have any farther discourse at that time, I desired to withdraw.

I was much favoured with stillness, and a sweet composure of mind, which to my great comfort, I found did strengthen and fortify me against the assaults of the enemy, which I met with both inwardly and outwardly. When I looked at my present situation, and what was likely

likely to be the consequence, fearing I might be a stumbling-block in the way of many, and bring dishonour to Truth, I was much cast down, and did often cry, " Lord, if I had been " worthy, thou wouldst have preserved " me out of the hands of such unreasonable men." But the good Shepherd of Israel did cast his mantle of love over me, and stilled my crying, so that I was in a good degree made willing to submit to what he should see meet to suffer to come upon me. Whilst I was here, fervent and strong desires were in my heart for those I had left behind me, in many places, that they might be preserved in the fear of the Lord. As to outward food, I eat very little several days. Many said, I should be sick, and often intreated me to eat ; but I did not eat much, till I found I could take it both with freedom of mind, and a good appetite, which had been quite gone. The Frenchmen, as I frequently walked upon deck amongst them, were become milder, and never offered to do me any harm, except one at the first,

first, and he was prevented from hurting me. I also sat, and walked often upon quarter deck, the officers all looking on me with a pleasant countenance, except the captain, who, I suppose, took offence at my not conforming to them when they went to prayers, which was twice a day.

One evening, as we were sitting in the cabin, a young Frenchman asked the man of war's captain before mentioned (pointing at me) concerning our principles. He told him, we were a strange people; we both disowned baptism and the Lord's supper. The Frenchman looked at me with disdain, and then began to speak much in behalf of both, laying great stress, especially upon the latter; for he seemed a very zealous young man for their way. Then both joining, they came to a conclusion, that those who were not in the practice of them, could not be saved. Their discourse was in Latin, and though I am not a Latin scholar, I understood so much, that I gathered the purport of their discourse. When
they

they had done, I told the captain, he had done very wrong, in misrepresenting the people called Quakers to that man. He asked, in what ? I told him, I understood he had been telling him we disowned baptism, and the supper. He said, he understood by me, that we did not own the sacraments. I told him, there was no such word made use of in scripture, that I knew of ; but baptism and the supper were, and we owned and believed both to be essential to salvation. My mind was then opened concerning baptism, in the several passages of scripture, which strengthen and confirm it, that the baptism, which is saving, must needs be spiritual ; and if so, then no need of water : for the apostle saith, " One Lord, one faith, " one baptism," Eph. iv. 5. and that themselves owned water to be but an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. I was led on, till I came to that last supper or passover, which our Lord did partake of with his disciples ; and told them what our Lord then said to his disciples,

ciples, was, " As often as ye do this, " do it in remembrance of me, to " shew forth my death until I come." This was no commandment to perpetuate that outward supper, or pass-over; that being a Jewish ordinance, which he then had nigh finished, when he nailed the hand-writing of ordinances to his cross. But I told them, they might see in the Revelations of John, what he said concerning his coming, where he saith, " Behold I stand at " the door, and knock; and if any " man hear my voice, and open the " door, I will come in to him, and " sup with him, and he with me." Rev. iii. 20. It is this supper and coming we own, and in our measure partake of; for this was the communion of the saints. Several scriptures opening then in my mind to confirm that baptism and supper, which are saving, to be spiritual; and as bodily exercise profiteth little, so that which is only outward and elementary, could not profit the soul. They heard me very patiently, and did not make any objections. Being pretty easy, I left them

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bour, with a fort at the entrance, and in it one ship of war. We did not land till next morning. This night I met with something that was very unpleasant to me, for the captain going on shore, and the men thinking all secure, when night came on, most of them went to rest; but the man of war's captain, and some of his men, as it afterwards appeared, had consulted about cutting the vessel out of the harbour. We had more liberty given this night than we had before. The two man of war's men, our captain, and myself, were ordered to lie in the cabin. Riddell had lain in it before, but now he was to lie in the captain's hammock, being a favourite, and I in his bed; but he not accepting of it, I got in. This I perceived gave great offence, therefore, to prevent further trouble, I soon quitted it, and sat me down by the man of war's captain, who had got to writing.

I had by this time contracted such an intimacy with him, that I could make bold to see what he was writing, without

without giving him any offence; and when I came to see what he was writing, and found it was only to spend time, it gave me some uneasiness, for it then began to be late. I did not suddenly say any thing to him, but took notice of his motions and looks, and saw his countenance was very much discomposed. All began now to be very still. None were up in the cabin but him and myself, and the young Frenchman before-mentioned, who kept guard, and he had no weapon in his hand. I asked the captain if he was not for bed. He said, he could not go to bed. I then told him, I would not have him think of making any attempts to take the vessel out of the harbour. He said, he should make no difficulty of it, if he had any body to stand by him. I signified, I thought it could not be done without much blood-shedding, if at all; and I should be very sorry to see any thing of that kind, though my liberty was as dear to me as any of theirs. He said, I need not be afraid; no body would hurt me. I told him, that was more

than he knew ; for as I had been with them all the evening, they would think I had a hand in the plot, and so I might lose my life undeservedly.

I laid before him all the difficulties I was capable of, as that of lying under the fort, and their man of war a little distance off, with a very rocky harbour to get out of; all which seemed to have but little effect on him. So I thought it was best to consult my own safety ; for if there was a skirmish, I should, if I staid there, be in the midst of it. So I went down to my old lodgings ; but could find no rest for my body, my mind being very uneasy. I therefore crept out again, all being still in the ship, and but few upon deck. I went into the cabin, where I found them as I left them ; but having a little more courage than before, I told the captain I was resolved to hinder any disturbance, if I could ; adding he surely was not in his right senses to think of any such thing, as his men, I supposed, knew nothing of it. He said I was mistaken,
for

for he had told one or two of them in the evening, and they would acquaint all the rest, and he could have them all up in a few minutes.

It was now about midnight, and his men, I suppose, thinking it high time to get to work, came upon deck without calling, and seemed to be in high spirits, for they talked chearfully, and, I thought, gave several signals to their master, that they were ready. I was in a great strait how to act, but thought it would be best to endeavour to keep peace if I could, having said as much as was necessary. I therefore sat me down close by him, with an intent to lay hold of him if he offered to take up a weapon, which was very nigh at hand. Great strugglings were in his mind, as he himself afterwards confessed. He often was just upon the point; but the Lord, in his great mercy, did interpose, and my mind began to be calm and still, and all fear was taken away. I then looking at him, saw his countenance became more composed and solid. I asked him if he
would

would not go to bed. He threw down his pen, and said he would. The young Frenchman sat by all this time, but perceived nothing of their design.

The night was pretty far spent, and the men, who had walked the deck a considerable time, thinking nothing would be done, went down to their beds; and when I had seen the master settled in his, I lay me down upon a bulk head of the ship, which was so narrow, I could only lie upon my side: there being nothing better in the cabin that I could find. But my mind being easy, after the pain it had been in, I fell asleep. It was a very cold night, and the partition of our cabin was but canvass. When I awaked I was stiff, but I did not take cold. The Lord was pleased to preserve me, though I often said in my mind, I did not think myself worthy, and more especially because he had suffered this great exercise to come upon me; which, I several times was made sensible, would have been a light matter with him to have hindered, if he had seen meet. I often
cried

cried to him in the secret of my heart, that if there was any iniquity lodging in me, he would be pleased to take it away; and if this my going was not consistent with his will, that he would be pleased to shew me how, and wherein I have missed my way; that I might not bring a reproach upon the Truth, and a trouble and exercise upon his people. It was not long we had to stay amongst this sort of company, for by that time the sun was up, the captain, with several more such as himself, came aboard; also two of their friars in their odd sort of drefs; I suppose to see what they could get in the scramble.

When breakfast was over, as several of us were to be searched before they took their leave of us, those appointed to do that business staid in the cabin. The captain and several others went out, and I amongst the rest, but was soon called in again, for they searched me one of the first. When I came in, they told me, they wanted my money. I said not much to them, but thought
if

if they had it they should take it from me ; so they began to search me, and took what they could find (which was but one guinea in money) and all other things they found about me of any value ; but my wearing clothes they gave me again. When they had searched me as long as they thought fit, they let me go, but they were not contented, for they had got it into their minds that I had a considerable sum of money, and a gold watch ; therefore I was no sooner gone out, but they fetched me in again, and I was searched in every part where they thought any money could be concealed. I was so grieved with them, I could not hold my peace, but said, they pretended to be gentlemen, and men of honour, but now they did not appear to be such ; for it was good works which made men truly honourable ; and as to what they could do to me, I said, I was not afraid of. Indeed, all fear was taken away from me : I did not seem afraid of my life, but whether I did well in telling them so, I afterwards queried ; for I thought
that

that courage was only given me for my own support, and not to lavish away at that rate. However, I came off pretty well, for they let me put on and carry away as many clothes as served to keep me warm.

We were on board eleven days, and then were landed near a town called Roscone. When we came to it, many people were gathered to see us, amongst whom was a mixture of black coats: two of them came to me, and one taking hold of my sleeve, asked me, as I supposed, what religion I was of, and whether I could speak Latin. I told them, as I was a prisoner, they had no business with me, and I did not incline to have any discourse with them; therefore desired they would not ask me any more questions. They turned off, saying, He is for no controversy. If I had been asked an honest question concerning the hope that is in me, I believe I should have had an answer according to Truth; but pearls ought not to be cast before swine.

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As soon as I had got quit of the two priests, there came a man to me, who seemed to be of some considerable account in the world, and said, he was sorry to see me there; but it was the fortune of war. He wished me safe in England again. He went to one of his acquaintance who lived in the town, and after some discourse, he came and invited me and Riddel, with the other two, to his house, and set before us such as they had, and desired us to eat and drink. There was also a woman in the house, much concerned about our having to walk to Morlaix that night, which was twelve miles, and sent to hire horses, but none were to be had. She therefore gave strict charge to the soldiers that conducted us, to hire horses at the next place, and she would pay the charge. I wish many may follow her example in being kind to strangers; for what she did I thought was of great service to me. The soldiers hired horses for four of us when we came to the next town, which was four miles. This town was pretty large, and there
were

were many spectators. That they might have a full view of us, the soldiers had us into a convenient place, and stood round us at a little distance. The people gathered so thick, they could scarce stand one by another; and in this posture they kept us about half an hour. Then they had us to an inn, where we were put into a large chamber, and meat and drink were set before us. But before we were well sat down, several men and women of the upper rank came in; the rabble stayed mostly below.

Whilst we were at meat, some of them turned up my coat laps, and examined what my clothes were made of as well as they could, and commended them for being good. They seemed not to take so much notice of any as they did of me; often pointing at me, saying, I was a minister, a priest. Several gay women sat behind the table, where they had opportunity to look at me as much as they pleased. They were very light and airy, which I shewed some dislike to, and told them . . . had heard the French used

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good

good manners, and knew how to behave well; but it could not be said so of them, for it was not good manners to come into our room without leave, and when they were in, not to behave soberly and well. I soon perceived I had an interpreter, for some among them understood English, and informed the rest; upon which they left the room, and it was soon pretty clear. After them came in several young men, who both looked and behaved well. I had nothing in my mind against being free, and looking pleasantly on them; for this, when seasonable, hath a good effect.

The next place we came to of any account was Morlaix; it was night when we got 'in, and we were obliged to stand and sit in the street, till they got orders from the commissary what to do with us. I thought the time very long, more on account of our poor men than myself; for they had walked till they sweated, and some of them were ill. To sit in the street an hour or more, in a cold night, I thought was almost enough to give them their death.

death. When orders came, they were to take us to prison; but a merchant, one Forney, who was agent of the prizes, met us in the street, and took Riddel, the two man of war's men, and myself, to a tavern, where we had what we pleased to call for, but not at the cheapest rate. Our landlord was an Irishman, and I perceived had a very good opinion of himself.

After we had supped, and he had informed himself what I was, he entertained us with a dish of as unsavoury discourse about religion as I thought I had ever heard, and what made it more irksome, he held it very long. He fetched a book, out of which he said he taught his children, and as he read, some of our people were so weak as to commend it, which made him more eager. I do not remember that I either answered any of his questions, or made any objections to what he said; but when he told me, he intended to bring some of my brethren to see me, meaning the priests, for he said they would like to have some discourse with me; I told him he need
not

not bring any there upon my account for I did not want any of their company : so that was put an end to, for they never came to me while I staid in Morlaix. Whilst I was here, the young man came to see me, who took care of me the first night I lodged aboard the privateer, and saluted me in a very friendly manner. This young man took more notice of me than any other all the time I was aboard, and when they were stripping and searching me, he stamped upon the deck, and shewed great resentment, as Riddel told me, and knowing he had not wronged me, could chearfully come to see me ; but the others, who had, did not care to see me, and though I often met them in the street, they endeavoured to shun me, and would not look me in the face if they could avoid it. I thought it was a brave thing to have a conscience void of offence both towards God and men.

We were brought before one of their chief officers, called the commissary, to have our names entered, and such as could not find bail, must

go to prison. This man and his wife took great offence at my hat being in its place, as likewise did the commissary at Roscone, who was an old man, and ill of the gout, upon his bed. But several capital people of the town being present, he was much displeased, because I did not give them that honour which was none of their due. When I had given in my name, I soon quitted the room. This commissary was a young man, and several were in the room with him. I had not asked any body to be bail for me, for I was easy, and the thoughts of the prison did not terrify me, though we had heard a very dismal account of it; however Forney, whom I mentioned before, after he had called Riddel aside, and asked him concerning me, ventured to be bail for me. I staid a little while in the room after our people were withdrawn, and looked at the great man as he sat in his chair, and thought his countenance was somewhat milder, and he spake pretty kindly to me when we parted. It was said, he was very bitter against all the English,

English, and had uttered many harsh expressions against them ; but his glass was then almost run, for he lived but a little while after this.

Forney, who had passed his word for me, being agent, had my papers and letters, which I found he did not chuse to part with, except my certificate and letter of credit, and another paper or two, which he did not think worth while to keep. I perceived he was a selfish man, for after he understood my little money that I should want was not to come through his hands, he came to me, and with an unpleasant tone told me, he would not stand bound for me any longer. I said, I did not intend to give him any offence in employing another to do my business : viz. Charles Serman-son, a merchant, who was of great service to me afterwards, when I came to be acquainted with him. When he heard Forney would not be bound for me any longer, he said, he would be bound for me, as freely as he would for his own brother. So I
was

was still kept out of prison. Whilst we were here we were examined at the admiralty office, where they asked many questions, and I thought, if I had been enough aware of them, I should have come better off than I did. Before they had us into the room where we were examined, they had something of the form of an oath. I told them I could not take it, being against our principles. After some discourse about it, they, not being willing to let me pass without examining, had me into their room, and asked me my name and place of abode, whether I was married, and what children ; to which I answered. They asked what preparations were making in England for war ? To which I answered, as I did not concern myself about such things, I should say nothing about them. He asked other questions about the manner of our being taken, and what was taken from me, and about our ship and cargo. Then after a pretty long pause, he said, now I have some close questions to ask you, but you must not be angry. I was silent, not know-

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ing how I should come off. He then asked me, whether I was a minister? I said, I did not chuse to be put under that denomination. He said, what then? I told him, my business, when at home, was to look after and feed cattle, and such in our country were called graziers. He asked me what I was going to do in Pennsylvania? I said, to visit my friends. Whether I knew any body there? I said I was acquainted with but a few. Whether I was sent by the Quakers? I told him, I was not; though I had their approbation therein. He then asked me, whether or no the Quakers would fight if they were attacked by an enemy? I said, it was not my business then to tell him whether they would or not; it was enough for me to answer for myself. Then said he, If you were smitten on one cheek, would not you turn the other? Or, if they took away your coat, would not you give them your cloke also? I said, it was so in Scripture, but I had not freedom at that time to answer those questions.

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He asked me no more questions at that time, that I remember.

About this time I suffered much in my spirit ; the reason is best known to the Lord. I was heavy and sorrowful in my mind both night and day for some time, and much afraid, lest I should bring dishonour to Truth by my unfaithfulness, or some slip or other that I had made or might make, for want of care and watchfulness, in that strange land, separated from my brethren, and deprived of all outward help and comfort. But this to me was a profitable season, for I found the fear of the Lord, which was then in my heart, did preserve me from evil, and falling into temptation. Though such company as I had was very unpleasant to me, and I thought myself unfit for conversation ; yet, when by honest inquirers, I was asked questions concerning our faith and principles, I was helped, in the openings of Truth, to give them an answer concerning the hope that was in me : scriptures freely opening, and all things brought to my

remembrance, sufficient to put to silence, and stop the mouths of gain-fayers.

Whilst I staid in Morlaix, Charles Sermanfon (before mentioned) who often invited me to his house, one evening, as we were in discourse, asked me, why I went abroad in such troublesome times ? I told him, I believed it to be my duty ; for nothing else would have induced me to leave all that were near to me in this world, as wife and children, but a sense of duty to God, and obedience to what I believed he required of me ; for as to outward gain or advantage, I had nothing of that in my view, for such as have freely received, must freely give.

Thus setting forth the nature, call, and qualification of the true ministry, I saw it had some reach upon him and his wife, who sat by, and desired that he would interpret to her what I said. When she understood I had left a wife and children behind me, she said that
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could not be consistent with the will of God. I signified, she did not consider Christ saith, " He that loveth " father or mother, wife or children, " houses or lands, more than me, is not " worthy of me." I took the liberty to reprove her husband, for taking the great and sacred name in vain, which I suppose made some alteration in his countenance. She then asked him what I said. When he told her, she said, I had done well, for that was his great weakness, and she hoped he would take notice of it. I said, by turning our minds to the light of Christ in our hearts, which reproveth for sin, as we came to yield obedience to it, we should be helped to overcome our weaknesses. She said I was a saint, and had overcome the temptations of the world. I said, what I am, it is by grace. I have nothing to boast of, and by grace I am saved out of many temptations of the world; yet was a man of like passions, and liable to many weaknesses, as they were; and was no longer safe than whilst I kept upon my watch. My mind was opened

ed to point out to them the way of salvation, scripture being brought to confirm the sufficiency, work, and operation of the grace of God, upon the hearts of the children of men; with the saving help there is in it, as it is yielded obedience unto. It was a seasonable opportunity. Finding freedom, I let him see the certificate I had from my friends. When he had read it, he said, he liked it very well. I told him something of the good order we had amongst us, which he seemed to approve well of; but said, he could but admire that I should take so much pains, without any view of outward advantage. I told him, what I had said was the truth. He said, he did believe it was, But, said he, our priests would not go across that room without being paid.

Perceiving that what had already passed had some good effect, for the man was very loving, and his understanding measurably opened, to distinguish between the true and false ministers, I took my leave for that time, and went
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to my quarters, which was at a tavern, where I was for several days, and had much company of divers sorts. As I appeared to them somewhat singular, they wanted to know what I was, and such as could speak English would ask me questions; and as I found freedom I answered them. One came as I was sitting in a room, there being a pretty deal of company, and asked why the Quakers would not fight? I told him, the weapons of the primitive believers were not carnal, but spiritual, and mighty, through faith, to the pulling down sin, and the strong holds of Satan; and such as are now come under the peaceable government of the great King of Kings (who said, if his kingdom had been of this world, then his servants would have fought) cannot fight with carnal weapons, though there may seem as great a necessity, as there was when our Lord was like to be delivered to the Jews. I had to open several passages of Scripture, which set forth the peaceable government of Christ, who came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them;

them; and that it was not the lamb's nature to tear and devour, but the wolf's. This opportunity was seasonable, the people were very still and attentive. He that asked me this question had often been with me, and had asked many questions, but was now silent, and seemed to go away satisfied; for the power of God was over them at that time.

After some time, I, with some others who were prisoners at large, was ordered into the country about thirty miles, to a town called Carhaix. Charles Sermanfon supplied me with what money I wanted, and also recommended me to a friend of his there, one John Grace, a counsellor at law, who, during my stay, shewed several tokens of his regard and hearty friendship, after he and I came to be acquainted; though I may say with safety, I never sought his, nor any other's favour, by any indirect means, or in a way Truth did not admit of. When I went to his house, it was in the evening, and he taking
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the letter with his hat off, made a bow, but I not returning it as he expected, he with an earnest look, and somewhat of an unpleasant tone, said, I might go to the tavern, and he would come to me in the morning. He did so, and told me, as I had been recommended to his care by his good friend Charles Sermanfon, he would do the best he could in providing me a private lodging; and any other service he could do me, which lay in his power, should not be wanting. I told him, I was obliged to him, and was glad to find him, and some others of his countrymen, so well disposed as to be kind to strangers; and as I was a stranger, and also a prisoner, I should be glad of his assistance. He said, he was glad he had the opportunity of assisting his fellow-creatures, for he looked upon it to be no more than his duty. Then we walked into the town, where he provided me a chamber, and I had every thing found me that was necessary. My new landlord took great notice of my behaviour, and, I suppose, at first did not know how to

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behave

behave himself towards me, that I might not be offended ; for being poor, he was glad of a little money. He could speak no English, and I but little French, so we could have no conversation ; but he told one of the Englishmen, who spoke French, that I did him good, though he could not understand me. He was a peruke-maker by trade, and when he had left work in the evenings, he and his wife would come and sit with me a considerable time in silence ; which was not disagreeable to me : for sometimes, I believe, we were favoured with good, when we sat in silence. His wife was a religious woman, and of a solid sober behaviour, so far as I ever saw. I staid in their house three months, and then took lodgings in another place ; three young men in like circumstances with myself, desiring very much to be with me, and they not having room for us all, I left them. As the young men behaved well, their company was agreeable ; two of them being friends sons, though they did not in many things

take up the cross as they ought to have done, yet their behaviour to me was such, as gained my love and affection. One of them soon after died in the French prison, being, when taken, upon his passage to Rhode-Island, where his parents lived, at whose house I afterwards was, and found them very sorrowful, for they had lost three of their sons, two at sea, and one in prison. As these things affected and made some impressions upon my mind, I made a few remarks.

John Grace, the counsellor, after a little while, became very loving, and had me often to his house, it not being far from my lodgings, and I found myself very free to converse with him, and told him in freedom at one time, if he had any thing in his mind to ask concerning our society or principles, I would have him be quite free, for I should be willing to answer honestly according to the best of my understanding. He said, he understood we did not baptise with water. I told him, the apostle

Paul saith, " There is one Lord, one
 " faith, one baptism ;" and water, how
 or by whomsoever administered, is
 only sufficient to put away the filth
 of the flesh, but not able to wash away
 the sin of the soul. The same apostle
 said, " He was not sent to baptise,"
 (he there must be understood with
 water) " but to preach the gospel,
 " which is the power that baptiseth
 " into the one Spirit." He further
 saith concerning himself, that he was
 not awhit behind the chiefest of the
 apostles ; yet he thanks God, he had
 baptised no more than the few he re-
 cites, which he would not have done,
 if baptism with water had been the
 one baptism essential to salvation. He
 said, he thought there ought to be
 something done to children by the
 minister, to initiate them into the
 church. I said, as to our not being in
 the practice of sprinkling children with
 water, or signing them with the sign
 of the cross, as it was not scriptural,
 we could not be justly blamed for
 being in the disuse of it. He then
 said, if he at first had put on the
 priest's

priest's gown, instead of that he then wore, he should have thought it his business to have searched more into the Scriptures. I told him, I took him to be a man of that understanding, as very well to know, it ought to be every one's business to search into the things that belong to their own peace. He said it was true, but they had men who were learned, whom they paid, and he looked upon these to be his teachers, and as for him, he was but a hearer, and if they deceived him, it would be the worse for themselves; they could not deceive God. I said, it was true, they could not; but as the salvation of the soul is a thing of so great moment, we should not have our dependence upon others, and as to teachers, we might know them by their fruits; for, according to Christ's own words, "men do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles." He further said to his ministers, "freely you have received, freely give." As to those of polluted lips, I thought they could not profit the people at all. He said, there was no
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Scripture that forbad marrying, and he thought their priests wrong in that ; for they did not keep themselves chaste, but deluded and deceived many poor young women. I said, it was great pity any should be deprived of the benefit of the Scriptures, for all ought to have liberty to try all things, that they may hold fast that which is good ; for it is dangerous pinning their faith upon other men's sleeves : " if the blind lead the blind, they " will both fall into the ditch." He then said, he should be glad to read some of our authors, which I gave him some expectations of sending, if I lived to return home.

Some time after this, he sent for me to dine with him, when I expected he would have had some priests with him, but he had not ; though he told me he had invited one of their clergymen to dine with him, and acquainted him I was to be there, but he desired to be excused, alledging, he thought I should be offended with his company. I said I should not, if he was a religious

gious sober man. I was not had before the commissary or chief magistrate, at my first coming here, with the rest of the prisoners, but this counsellor gave in my name, and when they went to receive the government's allowance, I went, not having enough to support me without. But hearing the commissary had uttered some very bitter expressions against the Quakers, and me in particular, for not putting off my hat, as he had observed, when I met him in the street, I had an inclination to pay him a visit, which I acquainted a young man with, who could interpret for me. We found the commissary in the street. The young man told him, I was come to see him, or pay him a visit. He looking earnestly at me, after a pause, took us into a room, and before I could say any thing to him, asked me, why I did not put off my hat? I told him, uncovering our heads was what we did when we prayed and addressed the Almighty; but to do it to our fellow-creatures was against our consciences.

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The answer, though short, I perceived satisfied him, for his haughty countenance fell, and he then spake mildly, and said, he had heard we did not baptise our children. I said, we did not use water-baptism. What do you then, said he, instead of water? I said, the one baptism, which we believe to be saving and essential to salvation, is spiritual, that of fire and the Holy Ghost; and as to little children, they are heirs of the kingdom of heaven without water, or the help of any mortal man. I told him, I had heard he said something against me, but I came in good will to pay him a friendly visit, for I had a mind to speak with him myself. He then took me by the hand, saying, he would not do me any hurt, but all the service that lay in his power. I took my leave of him with thankfulness, that truth had thus far prevailed, and the young man was well satisfied; for he was somewhat in fear before we went, having heard what the commissary had said concerning me. Ever after, when I met with him, he looked pleasantly,
and

and I believe never any more took offence at my hat.

Charles Sermanfon, whilst I was here, wrote me several kind letters; and mine, which I wrote to England, he took care to send to his correspondent in London; by whom also my letters from home were safely conveyed to me, which made my confinement much the easier, as I could often hear from my wife and family, and they from me. After I had been confined about five months, I was released; my passport coming to hand, I shewed it to John Grace, and he went with me to the commissary, who readily signed it, expressing his gladness that I had got my liberty, and was going to my family. He also gave leave to several of my fellow-prisoners, who were desirous to accompany me to Morlaix. The 23d of the 4th month I took my leave of the counsellor and his family, with divers others, both French and English, who came to see me in a very affectionate manner. When I came to Morlaix, I found a Dutch vessel

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bound

bound to Ostend. Charles Sermanfon agreed with the master to set me upon the English coast, if the wind would permit, which happened well the 28th of the 4th month 1757.

When I came to London, I found several friends very glad to see me, having had a near sympathy with me in my exercises; and I saw the Lord had been my helper and deliverer, in that he had been pleased to bring me safe to my native land; and not only so, but I found friends as nearly united to me as ever; which was a great comfort. For I had been afraid, lest they should stand at a distance from me; but magnified be the Great Name for evermore, I found all well in that respect, and likewise when I came to my own habitation, which was on the 11th of the 5th month 1757.

I soon set out again for the yearly meeting in London, which began the 28th of the 5th month this year. My brother Maw, and two other friends, accompanied me. It was believed I
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was intending to proceed again to America; but I could say little to it when asked, till the yearly meeting was over, and friends mostly gone out of town. I was then made sensible, it was my duty again to make preparation to set forward; a ship being near ready to sail for Philadelphia. I then acquainted friends with it, who left me to my liberty, expressed their unity with it, and made all things as easy for me as they could. For which my spirit was bowed in thankfulness, to the great, good, and wise Disposer of all things, who can dispose the minds of his people as he seeth meet; and who ever will, I believe, make way for all that put their trust in him, that his requirings may be in all things duly answered. I took my leave of my wife and family in a solemn manner, not knowing I should see them again in mutability. I also settled my outward affairs in such order as I thought might be for the best.

The 19th of the 6th month 1757,
I left London, several friends accom-
panying

panying me to Gravesend. The vessel being just ready to sail, I took leave of friends, and followed her in a small vessel as far as the Nore, two of my kind friends still accompanying me, viz. John Sherwin and Thomas Wagstaffe. I went on board the ship, and they returned to London. We arrived in the Downs the 21st, and waited for a convoy, it being a time when much shipping were taken by the French. The people were not willing to go without men of war.

I went on shore while here, and found a small family of very sensible friends, of which I was glad. The 23d we weighed anchor, being in all about sixty sail. We lost sight of land the 8th of the 7th month, had a good passage, and in ten weeks from London we got safe to Philadelphia. Here I found several friends from Europe in the service of Truth. We were truly glad to see each other, and had comfortable meetings together: blessed be the name of the Lord! I have great cause to be truly thankful,
and

and in humble reverence, to praise his great and everlasting name, for many deliverances both by sea and land. I may in truth say, his name hath been to me a strong tower, and thither I have run and found safety. For though he suffers his to be tried, as in the furnace of affliction, he will not leave nor forsake them; but his arm hath been made bare for their deliverance, and he hath granted them the petition of their souls. Glory and honour be given to him, and that for evermore! I staid in and about Philadelphia till the yearly meeting was over.

The 5th of the 9th month 1757, I went into East Jersey, John Pemberton accompanying me. We had a meeting at Haddonfield; thence to Chester, and had a meeting there also, both to good satisfaction. We lodged at Edmund Holinhead's, and on first day were at Evesham meeting, which was attended with the seasoning virtue and power of Truth. We went that night to Burlington, and attended the monthly meeting on second day, which I thought

I thought was to general satisfaction. I lodged at John Smith's, a substantial friend, and a very serviceable man in the society. Here John Pemberton left me.

I went next day to Ancocas, it being the fourth of the tenth month, and third of the week. We had a meeting there, which was hard in the beginning, and dull; but that spirit of earthly mindedness, which had too much prevailed, was testified against, and truth, I think, did in a good degree spring up over all: praised be the great name for ever! The fourth of the week, accompanied by another friend, had two meetings at Mount Holly, both to pretty good satisfaction: we lodged at Josiah Foster's. Fifth day we had a meeting at a school-house, which was large, and though it held long, the people were very quiet: we lodged at William Smith's. Sixth day we had a meeting at Old Springfield; first day at Mansfield. It was a large meeting, but the minds of the people hankering much after words,

words, the spring of life, that had run through me, being in a great measure stopt, a cloud came and covered my tabernacle. I saw it was safest to stand still. We lodged at Peter Harvey's, a kind and steady friend.

Next day, the second of the week, and tenth of the month, we had a meeting at a school-house in the neighbourhood, which was small, but in some degree satisfactory : we lodged at William Smith's : had a meeting at Upper Springfield on third day ; at Freehold on fourth ; Croswick's on fifth ; Borden town on sixth ; and Trenton on first day : we lodged here at William Morris's. From thence to Stoney Brook, and had a meeting on the second day of the week, and 17th of the month. We lodged at James Clark's. In this place they had been hurt, and scattered in their minds ; as also in several other places, where there had been a striving, and a dividing spirit got in. From thence we went to Robins's meeting on third day, which was not so satisfactory as could have

have been desired ; some being restless, the meeting holding long.

We went from thence to Squan, and had a meeting there on fifth day amongst a company of poor dark people. Then to Shrewsbury the twenty-second of the tenth month, where was a meeting for ministers and elders. The meeting on first day was very large, and, considering the great numbers of people of all ranks, was quiet. Second day it was a good solid meeting, Truth prevailing over all : praises be given to the Great Name for ever. The Son of Righteousness did arise with healing in his wings, and my soul was delivered, as out of the pit ; for I had been ready to despair, and thought I should have been overcome by the enemy. Great horror and darkness was over my understanding for a time ; but the Lord did send his light, and his truth, and caused it to shine upon my tabernacle ; and I had to declare of his mercy and goodness towards the children of men, and to invite them to come and see for them-

themselves, what great things the Lord will do for them that trust in him. This great meeting ended well, and I was truly thankful to the great Master of our assemblies. We lodged at Joseph Wardal's, a worthy friend.

On third day we came back to Crof-wick, and lodged at Thomas Middleton's. Next day to widow Andrews's, where my companion was taken ill. Here I left him, after staying one night, and went to Haddenfield with Isaac Andrews, and lodged at his house one night, and so to Philadelphia, where I staid till their quarterly meeting. We had several comfortable opportunities together. John Hunt and Christopher Wilfon were here, and had good service. I staid about Philadelphia, attending meetings as they came in course, both for worship and discipline, until the fifteenth of the eleventh month, when I set out towards the southern provinces, Thomas Lightfoot accompanying me. We went to Chester, and were at their youth's quarterly meeting, which was

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a time

a time to be remembered by many of us.

We visited the meetings through Chester county, till we came to Nottingham, and were at the monthly meeting, John Hunt from England also being there. It was a suffering time to me, I being sensible many were worshipping only in the outward court, whose dwelling was in the form without the power, such cause suffering to the true seed. I staid meeting with them on first day, and was led to speak closely to several states, and left them pretty easy in mind. I lodged at John Churchman's, and had a meeting at West-Nottingham on third day; at Little Britain on fourth day, where several of the Presbyterians came in, with their priest, who took down in writing what I said; though I perceived not that he was writing, till I had nigh done speaking. When I sat down, most of them went out, but he staid; and, after a short space, I had to say, "The time shall come, when the dead shall hear the voice
" of

“ of the Son of God ; or they that are
 “ dead in forms ; and they that hear
 “ and obey shall live ; and that Christ
 “ is the resurrection, and the life, and
 “ he that liveth and believeth in him,
 “ though he is dead, yet shall he
 “ live.” I did not enlarge much upon
 it ; but the meeting broke up in a
 good degree of life, and the priest
 went off with his company. Friends
 thought there was no danger of any
 ill coming of it, but I was afraid, lest
 Truth should suffer.

I rode that evening after meeting
 to William Downing's, who had a
 large family, with whom we had a
 good opportunity. Thence we came
 to Sudsbury, where I had a meeting,
 and in the openings of truth, had
 closely to speak to the states of many.
 From thence I went to Lampiter, where
 I had two meetings ; and so to Lan-
 caster, and had a meeting with the few
 friends that lived there. We lodged
 at Isaac Whitelock's ; and after having
 a meeting at James Wright's, we
 crossed the river Susquehannah, and

went to York, where a few friends dwelt, and had a meeting among them. We quartered at Nathan Hufsey's.

Our next meeting was at Newbury ; it was silent, but to my satisfaction. We passed through Warrington, but had no meeting, it being the youth's quarterly meeting at Huntington, where we had an edifying time together. We had also meetings at Munnallin, John Evans's, Pike Creek, Bush Creek, and Mincorkesha. Then crossing Patomack, we came into Virginia, to Fairfax ; where we had a meeting on the second day of the week, and twelfth of the twelfth month. It was a good meeting, Truth having the dominion : magnified be the great name of Israel's God, and that for evermore ! We lodged at Mary Jeney's, a discreet orderly woman, who had several sober well-inclined children. From hence we went to Goose Creek, and had a meeting on third day : it was well. On fourth day we had a meeting at David Pole's, several friends accompanying us. I had
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a travail in spirit, that Truth might not lose ground ; finding a spirit of ease had greatly prevailed in many of the professors of Truth, to the sorrow of the honest-hearted. We left David Pole's house on fifth day, and rode over the Blue Ridge, or Blue Mountains, where the Indians had done much mischief, by burning houses, killing, destroying, and carrying many away captives ; but friends had not hitherto been hurt : yet several had left their plantations, and fled back again over the Blue Mountains, where the lands had been rightly purchased of the Indians.

Things seemed dreadful, and several hearts ready to fail. We proceeded on our journey, and came within six miles of Winchester, where the English had a fort. On sixth day we had a meeting at Hopewell, which was an open time. I found my mind much engaged for the poor suffering people, but had to tell them, their greatest enemies were those of their own houses. The meeting ended well. We lodged at Joseph Lupton's, an ancient friend,
who

who with his wife was very loving to us. The Indians had killed and carried away several within a few miles of their habitation ; yet they did not seem much afraid ; for they said, they did not so much as pull in their sneck-string when they went to bed, and had neither lock nor bar. We had a meeting at Crookedrun on first day, the eighteenth of the twelfth month. It was a good meeting, the Lord favouring with his living presence. Glory be to his great Name for ever !

On second day we set forward through the woods, and over the hills and rocks, crossing several large creeks. We came in the evening to a man's house, called Moses Mackoy, and had a meeting there next day. They were an unsettled people, yet assented to truth ; but were not fully convinced in their minds, concerning the sufficiency of it, having an eye to outward shadows : I left them in good will. On fourth day we rode about thirty miles to Smith's Creek, where we had a meeting on fifth day, at the
house

house of William Carall. It was silent, though they had sent notice several miles, and many came. I told them, though I had nothing to communicate by way of preaching, or declaration, yet I found freedom to have another opportunity at a proper time and place: which I had next day at the house of John Mills, about ten miles off, somewhat on our way. The meeting was to good satisfaction. The Indians had killed and taken away people within two or three miles of this place, not many weeks before; but the Lord preserved us in our journey. Thanksgiving and praise be to him, and that for ever!

Seventh day we set out towards the south parts, and lodged that night at the foot of the Blue Mountains, at a friendly man's house, having two friends to conduct us. Next day, being the first of the week, we crossed the mountains, and towards evening came to Douglass's, and had a meeting with the family. The twenty-seventh, and third of the week, we had a meeting

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ing at Camp Creek. It was a pretty open meeting, though the sense of good is almost lost amongst them in that place, and their states much to be lamented. We lodged at Charles Mo-man's. Next day we rode fifteen miles, and lodged at Francis Clark's, and had a meeting at Fork Creek. Many people came, and sat with great attention, and the meeting was solid.

From thence we went to Jeneto, where we had a meeting, and many people came, but it being silent, they seemed dissatisfied. As I had nothing to say, I was glad I could be made willing to be what the Lord saw meet to allot me. We lodged at Jane Watkins's, a widow woman. She received us kindly, and had several loving and well-inclined children. We had a meeting at Cedar Creek on seventh day, the thirty-first of the twelfth month 1757. It was a satisfactory and good meeting. Truth had the dominion, praises be to the great Giver of every good and perfect gift!—I lodged at William Stanley's.

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From thence we went to Carolina, where the meeting was on first day, the first of the first month 1758. It was a large and good meeting. The states of the people were so spoken to, that through the Lord's goodness and condescension, I hope may tend to his honour, and to the help of his poor creatures. We lodged at Morner Chiles's, and also at John Chiles's, one night. Next meeting we were at the Swamp. It seemed to me, as I travelled along through these parts, true religion was much wanting among many of the professors of it. I lodged at William Johnson's. The next meeting was at the Black Creek. It was a good time to me, and hope also to some others: praises be to the great Name! I lodged at an old man's house that night. On the seventh of the week, and seventh of the month, the meeting was at White Oak Swamp, being monthly meeting, and then rode to Curls, and lodged at John Pleasant's, a very kind friend. We were at their meeting on first day. The third of the week, and tenth of the

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month,

month, had a meeting at Wine Oak, fourteen miles from Curls, which was satisfactory. We lodged at John Crus's, and on fourth day came back to John Pleasant's. On fifth day we rode to Robert Langley's nigh Peterburgh, and on sixth day had a meeting at the house of a friend called Butter. It was an acceptable time to some.

After meeting we went to Robert Langley's, where we were kindly entertained. On first day we were at Pattison's meeting, which was a low time with me ; yet truth in some good degree did prevail. On second day we came to Burley, and lodged at John Honeycut's, and had a meeting at Burley on third day, which was to some acceptable. We lodged at Wike Honeycut's, and were at the monthly meeting at Surry-black Water, where we had good service for truth. They being in the mixture, suffered people of other societies to sit with them in their meetings of business. I was grieved, and could not be easy till I had desired them to withdraw, that did

did not make profession with us, both from the men's, and women's meeting. I had to recommend to the oneness and simplicity Truth led into, and to keep their meetings for discipline, in that wisdom, power, and authority that they were at first set up in; that they might not join with the world's spirit, but keep themselves separate, and in the wisdom and power of God, keep the authority, and bear rule over those that were got into the mixture, and were for having those that did not profess with us to sit with them, when they transacted the affairs of the church. For some that professed Truth had encouraged this practice, which tended to weaken the hands of the honest-hearted, they not having found that liberty and freedom to speak so closely to their brethren, as need required. Joseph could not use that freedom, and unbosom himself to his brethren, in such a manner as the case required, till the Egyptians were gone out. I was glad I was there, for Truth had the dominion in the end. We lodged

at Cinstam Baly's. I visited all the little handfuls scattered up and down in these parts, and often had service in families. I met with Samuel Spavold, who likewise was much engaged in the service of Truth. His labour of love in the work of the gospel was indeed great in this part of the world ; those of other societies being much reached by his ministry. We were truly glad to see each other ; for as iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the face of a man his friend. We had several comfortable and confirming seasons together, especially at the quarterly meeting held at Black Creek for that part of Virginia ; many friends from divers places being there. I was glad to see them, but what made us more glad, and brought us nearer to one another, was, because the Lord favoured us with his presence, and filled our hearts with his pure love.

I having nigh visited all the meetings in this province, was taking my leave of many of them in time, so far as I could see them. Taking a few meetings

meetings in my way, in company with Samuel Spavold, I proceeded towards North Carolina, but left him to visit some meetings he had not been at. I went to Pinewoods, nigh Perquimon's River, in North Carolina; and had a meeting at Pinewoods the ninth of the second month. It was large, and attended with the overshadowings of divine goodness. To me it was an edifying strengthening time, as I trust it was to many more. We took up our quarters at Thomas Newby's: the next day we had a meeting at Wells, which was the sixth of the week. On seventh day we were at the Old Neck; and on first day at Little River. This meeting was very large, there being a considerable body of friends in this part; and people of other societies attend friends meetings when there are strangers. I was helped through those large assemblies far beyond my own expectation. I thought myself so unfit, weak, and unworthy, that I was almost cast down in my mind before I came there; but praises and thanksgivings to him that helped me, I left them

them rejoicing in a sense of the Lord's goodness and mercy to my soul. I lodged two nights at Thomas Nicholson's, who mostly favoured me with his company whilst I was amongst them. Here my companion Thomas Lightfoot left me, and returned to Philadelphia. The last meeting I was at here, was appointed for Samuel Spavold. At Pinewoods we had a solid opportunity together, many minds being truly bowed to the root of life in themselves, and finding myself clear, may truly say, I parted with a remnant in pure love, and the unity of the one spirit.

I then set forward towards a wilderness country, where the inhabitants were very thin, two young men accompanying me. Our first meeting after we left Perquimons, was at John Coupeland's. There were but few friends, but people of other societies came in, who had notice; amongst whom was an officer in the army. He came to our quarters in the morning, and rode about six miles on the road
towards

towards the meeting, then turned off, and said he would go and fetch his wife. He also brought with him a company of young people, who were learning to dance at his house, which I did not know till the meeting was over, and then he came and told me, he had invited them to come to the meeting, and also their master, but he would not come. I said, it was well, but it was pity he should so encourage such vanity, as to keep a dancing-school at his house. He excused it, saying, the man owed him money, and he knew not how otherways to get it, but by letting him teach his family. I signified, he had better lose it, than have his family taught that which would be unprofitable to them; for there was a woe pronounced against such as did chant to the sound of the viol, and invented to themselves instruments of musick, like David. He said, it was the truth that they had heard spoken to-day, but acknowledged they did not walk answerable to it. I said, it was their own fault; for if they would take heed to the
teachings

of truth in themselves, it would lead them into all truth, and consequently out of all error, and every bye-path and way that leads to destruction.

After we had refreshed ourselves, we passed his house, and he seeing us, came and invited us in, saying, he had entertainment for us, and should be glad of our company, and we should have a room to ourselves. I acknowledged his kindness, but as time would not permit, we must proceed on our journey. We took our leave of him, and I thought he was so reached, as to be measureably convinced of the sufficiency of the blessed Truth; though his appearance, and likewise his mind being lofty, he was not willing to submit to the low appearance of it.

Our next meeting was at Thomas Knox's, a man lately convinced: it was in a good degree satisfactory. We had very difficult roads, through great swamps, and across many creeks, all through the woods; and in many places but little path to be seen. We came

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to Fort-River, where there is a meeting settled, of such as had been lately convinced. Many came to meeting, which was held at Henry Horn's. Some of them were unsettled in their minds, not being founded upon the sure rock ; but such as seek shall find, and they that dig deep enough will come to the sure foundation, that the righteous have built upon in all ages of the world. Henry Horn had been a teacher among the Baptists. He seemed to be a steady well-disposed man, and had a few words in meetings. After I left his house, I had a meeting at Joseph Pitman's, who, with several others, was under conviction. It was an edifying season, many being sensibly touched with the love of truth. I staid with them one night, and then went to a small meeting nigh a place called Nuce. It was two days journey, a very difficult road to find, and none of our companions had been there before.

After this meeting, we went to Conis Sound, an inlet of the sea. We

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had

had ninety miles to ride, and were altogether unacquainted with the way, having rivers, and many swamps to cross. The two young men were still my companions, Joshua Fletcher, and Francis Nixon, who were very serviceable to me through this almost uninhabited part of the world. We got to Henry Stainton's in the night, who took us in, and entertained us very kindly. When we had staid two days, had a meeting, and rested ourselves, we set forward towards the next meeting among friends, which was one hundred and fifty miles. But in our way we had two meetings among people of other societies. I had still no guide but the young men, who knew no more of the way than myself. But such as are used to the woods can find the way through them much better than such as are not.

The first meeting we had after we left Conis-Sound, was at Permeanus Hauton's, who gave us an invitation to his house, and sent to give notice to his neighbours, though some lived
several

several miles distant. We got to his house about the time the meeting was appointed, where we found seats placed, and every thing in such convenient order for a meeting, as I thought I had seldom seen. His rooms being little, he had placed seats in his courtyard, and under the windows, that I believe all could sit and hear without the least troubling one another; and indeed I thought his labour and good inclination were blessed, for a solid time it was, and I found openness to declare the truth amongst them. I would that all our friends, upon the like occasion, would take this man for their example, in being diligent to invite their neighbours, and to make room and accommodate them in the best manner they are capable of. It certainly hath a good favour, and is often attended with a blessing.

A steady friend, that came from among the Presbyterians, told me, that the care and pains that some friends took to invite him, and some others, was one moving cause towards his

convincement. He said, he once told a young man, who had frequently invited him to meetings when strangers came, that as he, nor any of his friends came to their meetings, he thought he would go no more. The young man answered very calmly, saying, We must not come to you, but we want you to come to us. This, said he, affected my mind, with the diligence friends had used without view of outward gain, that I concluded, it must be the love of God in their hearts, that induced them to call and invite us to come to them. This I mention more particularly, because I have seen some that profess truth (to my grief) very deficient in this respect. We had another comfortable opportunity in the evening with this man and his family, and some others, that staid all night.

Next morning I, with the two young men, and one more, who had a mind to go a day or two along with us through the wilderness, set forward, well refreshed both in body and mind; hard things being made easy,
and

and rough and untrodden paths being made smooth to my mind. We had a meeting also at George Cowper's, whose wife was educated among friends. We staid one night at Wilmintown, the capital town in North Carolina; but it being their general court time, and the privateers having brought in prizes, the people's minds were in great commotions, so that I could find no room nor freedom to have a meeting, though several called Quakers lived there, but held no meeting, except when strangers came.

We crossed a branch of Cape Fear River, and landed upon a great swamp, which was very rotten, and dangerous, by reason of the overflowing of the river; but the two young men, and a negro, whom we hired to help us, carrying boards from one place to another for the horses to tread upon, in time, and with much difficulty, we got well over. We then came again into the woods, where little path was to be seen; it likewise being rainy dark weather, we could not tell which way

way to go, but rode many miles, hoping we might be steering right; and just at the close of the evening, before it was quite dark, we came to a little house, the sight of which was satisfactory, being weary, and very wet. When we called, the man said he kept an ordinary, which we found to be true. However, we were contented with such as we found, and thankful we fared so well. We were in our direct road for the place we intended, which was Carver's Creek, where we got next day, the sixth of the week, and tenth of the third month. Here was a small gathering of friends. We staid their first day meeting over, and then went to Don's Creek, where we found another gathering of such as call themselves friends, but had been much hurt, and scattered in their minds from the true shepherd, by an enemy that had sown tares.

Here I parted with my two good companions, who had travelled with me more than five hundred miles. Being nearly united together, we parted
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in true love. This I mention, because the Lord loves a chearful giver, and those did, I thought, what they did, with great freedom and chearfulness, not begrudging a little time, nor a little outward substance, for the sake of the good cause of truth. Those will not lose their reward, for it is helping forward the work, as that of opening a door, and kindling a fire, is doing part of the business of the master's house; and he doth look upon it as done to himself, if it is but that of handing a cup of cold water, as it is done in a right spirit, it will have his blessed approbation and reward. I had another companion, providentially, I thought, provided here for me.

William Feril, a public friend, having heard of my being in the country, had got himself ready against I came, and had freedom in the truth to travel with me, till I should fall in with another suitable companion; which made my travels through those lonely places much the easier. When we left his house, we set our faces towards South
Caro-

Carolina, having but one meeting of friends to take in the way, which was settled upon a river called P. D. about an hundred miles from the said friend's house. This we accomplished in about two days. In the night we lodged in the woods. The few friends were truly glad to see us, they being seldom visited. We had comfortable and refreshing seasons together, the Lord owning and favouring with his good presence, strengthened not only the inward, but the outward man also. Here I was sensibly affected with such a seal and evidence of peace in my own mind, that I was fully persuaded, I was in the way of my duty : it made me go on again very chearfully. No one can tell how good the Lord is, but such as have tasted, and seen his marvellous ways of working, and how he can spread a table for those, that in faithful obedience give up to his requiring, in a very wilderness ; for he neither lets them want for inward, nor outward food. There is now, as well as formerly, a little remnant, that, with my soul, can set their seals to the truth

truth of this ; and can say unto him,
We have lacked nothing, Lord !

Francis Clark, with whom we had quartered, bore us company one day and night in the woods. We thought sometimes, we travelled near sixty miles in a day; for when we had to lodge in the woods, we rose early, and lay down late. Our friend Clark returned home, leaving us to shift for ourselves; but my companion, having some knowledge of the way, steered, I believe, a pretty straight course. When night came, we pitched our tent in a valley, where there was some grass, and a little brook of water. So when we had eaten such as our bags afforded, and given our horses provender, and taken care of them, with what little we had, we lay ourselves down, and slept very sound and comfortably, being wearied with riding.

Next morning we were stirring by the time it was well light, and soon being ready, mounted our horses; and it was well we did so, for there came

such a rain that day, that it raised the creeks and rivers so high, that if we had not got over them that night, we might have been stopped for some days. We travelled till late in the night, and coming to a house, desired we might have lodgings; but the master of it told us, we could not. We asked him, how far it was to another house. He said, it was but a mile, but there was a deep creek in the way, and he would not go along with us, if we would give him a great deal of money. I then very earnestly desired, that he would let us stay in his house all night, and we would pay him for his trouble, and for what we had; for we had rode almost all the day in the rain, and it was a very cold rainy night. He told us, he would not let us stay there, and so left us standing without his gate. But a young man standing by, seeing and hearing what had passed, took pity on us, and said, though it was dangerous crossing the waters, he would take his horse, and go along with us; which he did, and we got well through, to the place the man
had

had told us of. After refreshing ourselves with such as the house afforded, we took up our lodgings in a very cold room, such as I had never lain in before. But, bad as it was, I was glad and thankful we had not to lie out all night in the rain. I rested well, and in the morning was well both in body and mind.

The fourth of the week we got to the Wateree, where several friends from Ireland had been settled about six or seven years. We had a meeting with them, and then, with Samuel Milhouse and my companion, I set out towards Charles Town. This took us most of three days, it being one hundred and thirty miles. When we came there; we found but few steady friends, yet we had some good opportunities together; several of the towns, people also coming in. I trust our visit was of service, and tended to edification, and strengthening the two or three that dwell in that remote part of the world. However, I thought I should not be easy without paying

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them

them a visit, though I had to ride so far on purpose.

When I felt myself clear, I returned with my friends to the Wateree, and was with them at their first day meeting, and meeting for business. We had good opportunities likewise in their several families, which I thought would not easily be forgotten. Then taking our leave of them in gospel-love, in which we had paid them that visit, we returned to P. D. Samuel Milhouse still accompanying us. The friends there, though their circumstances in the world were but low, treated us very kindly. Their love to truth, and diligence in attending meetings, are worthy of notice; for they had nigh one hundred miles to go to the monthly meeting they belonged to, and I was informed very seldom missed attending it.

Here my companion and I parted, he returning home, and I, with Francis Clark, went towards Crane-Creek. His company was so agreeable, that
time

time did not seem long. When night came, we took up our lodgings in the woods, and got next day to a place called Deep River, there being several families newly settled there, but they had not yet built a meeting-house. We had a meeting at a friend's house, and then proceeded to Crane-Creek, where there is a large body of friends gathered thither in a few years from the several provinces. They told me they had not been settled there above ten years, but had found occasion to build five meeting-houses, and then wanted one or two more. I had good and seasonable opportunities among them, being freely opened in the love of the gospel, to declare the truth.

When I found myself easy to leave them, having had divers meetings, at Eno, and several other places, which, for brevity sake, I forbear to mention; I with Jeremiah Pickitt then set out towards Virginia, having nigh two hundred miles to travel, and had but one meeting in the way. We got to Robert Langley's on first day evening,
where

where I staid to rest and refresh myself, after so long and tedious a journey. I then passed to Curls, and travelled through Virginia, having visited most of the meetings before, and came into Maryland. I was at their yearly meeting held at West River. It was very large, and in the several sittings thereof overshadowed with the wing of divine power, which tended to nourish the good part, and to the gathering and settling the minds of many upon the sure foundation, and kept down that spirit which would divide in Jacob, and scatter in Israel.

We parted on fourth day in great love, some of us being nearly united in spirit. For though many, by balking their testimony against that antichristian yoke of tithes, and trading in negroes, have caused the way of truth to be evil spoken of; yet I was sensible that the regard of heaven was towards them, and the merciful hand was still stretched out, even towards the unfaithful, and backsliders, that they might be gathered. I had a travel
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and exercise upon my spirit for the cause of truth, and that the great blessed and everlasting name, which I with many more make a profession of, might not be dishonoured : the faithful are indeed as stakes in Sion, but they are but as one of a family, or two of a tribe.

I then took the meetings in my way to Pennsylvania, as Elk-Ridge, Patapsco, and Patapsco-Forest, Little Falls, Gunpowder, and so to Deer Creek, where our worthy friends John Churchman and his wife met me. We crossed the river Susquehanah into Pennsylvania, and so to their house. Having had many precious meetings in this journey, and well cleared myself of those provinces, I was easy in my spirit, and much comforted in the Lord, that he had been pleased thus far to help me through. I tarried one night at John Churchman's ; and next day, being the seventh of the week, was at New Garden monthly meeting ; on first day at London Grove, where there is a large gathering of friends.

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It was a good opportunity, truth favouring us, we were comforted together in the Lord. On the second day, the twenty-ninth of the fifth month, I got to Philadelphia, having in this journey travelled upwards of two thousand eight hundred miles.

After my return from the southern provinces, I staid some weeks visiting meetings, and some friends families, in and about Philadelphia; and was also in the Jerseys visiting several meetings, and attended their yearly meeting at Salem, which held three days for worship and discipline. It was an edifying time, things being conducted in a degree of the pure wisdom, and the overshadowing of divine power was witnessed by many. Then, having duly waited for the moving and putting forth of the good Shepherd, who said, "I put forth my sheep, and go before them," I thought I felt a draft, and not only so, but likewise true liberty, to visit New England, which I had not done before. If I had, I should have proceeded, in order

to shorten my journey, for it was against mine own inclination to stay so long in and about one place. Therefore I set out the twenty-sixth of the seventh month, Isaac Greenleaf accompanying me.

My first step was to Wright's Town, where was held a general meeting for the county of Bucks. Then we crossed Delaware into East Jersey, and took meetings in our way to New York, then to Flushing upon Long Island, and were at their monthly meeting. Then crossing the Bay went to their quarterly meeting at Purchass. After this, we took several meetings, as they fell in our way towards Rhode Island. I then had Robert Willis for my companion, a friend from the Jerseys, who had drawings in his mind that way. Many people came to our meetings in those parts, which are not closely joined in outward fellowship with us; yet are under the operation of the good hand, and in degree convinced of our principles. This, I thought, made our meetings more lively, and the spring
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of the gospel to flow more plentifully, to the watering the thirsty ground.

When we had visited the meetings hereabouts, and taken our leave of friends, we travelled through Connecticut government, having but one or two meetings in the way. The Presbyterians, who formerly in those parts were very rigid and bitter against friends, are now become more loving, and treated us very kindly. I had great drawings of the Father's love towards them, believing the secret hand was at work to bring them from the barren mountains of their lifeless profession, to serve the living God in newness of life. We came to Leicester, where there is a little handful that go under our name. We had a meeting with them on first day, the twentieth of the eighth month. We were refreshed together, being strengthened in the God of our salvation. Then we had a meeting at Boulton, about thirty miles from thence, where we met with Samuel Spavold, in his return towards Pennsylvania, he having visited most of
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the meetings in New England. We had a good season together. Then saluting one another in that unity and fellowship which brethren and fellow-labourers ought to dwell in, we parted; and my companion and I went to Uxbridge, and had a meeting. Then to Mendam, where we tarried all night at Moses Aldrige's, and had a meeting next day; so on to Winsockit, where we had a meeting. The weather being very hot, many people were nigh fainting; but praises be to the great Name, the meeting concluded well.

On first day we were at Providence yearly meeting, which is only for worship. It was very large, and tended to the gathering and staying people's minds on Christ, the chief corner stone, and rock of ages; for Truth had the dominion, and the Lord's power was felt. We had our outward entertainment at Stephen Hopkins's, then Governor of Rhode Island. He and his wife treated us with hearty kindness. We had meetings at Cranston, Warwick, and East Greenwich, then upon

Canonicut Island. We then crossed the river, and came to Newport; and attended both their meetings on first day, which were large; a great number residing thereabouts, who go under our name. But, with sorrow of heart may it be said, in the time of ease and plenty, many have taken their flight.

We left Newport on third day, and had a meeting at Portsmouth, in which we had good service for Truth. Then crossing the Bay, had a meeting at Fuerton upon the main, in which we were favoured with the openings of Truth, and left them in peace. I took notice of a negro man, who was with us at several meetings, and by his own industry, with the help of some friends, had purchased his freedom, that he might attend meetings; having, for some time, been convinced of the blessed Truth, which he much prized, and told me, as he had been obedient to the operation of it, which worketh by love, he found himself engaged in his mind to exhort his fellow-creatures to come to the good prin-

principle in themselves ; that they, by yielding obedience, might know a being saved by it ; or to that effect. This I could not gainsay, nor discourage ; but desired him to be faithful to the manifestation of Truth in his own heart, and the measure of Grace he had received. We parted in love and good will, being brethren of one Father.

Our next meeting was at Little Canton, after which I parted with several friends, in the unity of the one Spirit, which had brought us into nearness and fellowship with each other ; they returning to their places of abode, and I with my companion, and a young man who accompanied us several weeks, still kept forward. I was enabled to labour through these parts beyond all outward expectation ; for though the meetings were large, by reason of great comings in of other people, I found that gracious promise fulfilled ; “ As the day is, so shall thy strength be.” We were at Acockit, New Town, and Dartmouth or Penganfit, and had a
meeting

meeting at each place. The last meeting, I thought, did not consist of less than eight hundred people. We had at Acushnet, Rochester, Taunton, and Freetown, many living and good opportunities to declare Truth in the free extendings of Gospel-love; also at Swansea, on a first day, had a satisfactory opportunity. Whilst we were visiting those places, we took up our quarters at Paul Osbourn's, who often accompanied us from one meeting to another, his heart being free and open towards his friends, and to serve Truth.

Having well cleared ourselves, we went towards the yearly meetings at Boston, Lynn, and Salem, the twenty-second of the ninth month. They began at Boston. I do not remember I had seen so much stillness and gravity in so great an assembly, as I observed there. It consisted of people of different persuasions. We have great cause to bow, in humble thankfulness, to the God of all our mercies, that he hath been pleased to make way for his people,

people, to enjoy their religious meetings without the least molestation, in this and many other places, where our worthy friends formerly suffered sore persecution, by long imprisonment, grievous whippings, spoiling of goods, and some of them laid down their lives for the testimony of a good conscience : and though our God be a gracious, merciful, and long-suffering God, yet he will take vengeance on all the workers of iniquity, and the day of his wrath will break forth like a consuming fire, in a time when it is not looked for. As he said, so he will do ; “ For,” said he, “ I am a jealous God, “ visiting the sins of the fathers upon “ the children, unto the third and “ fourth generation of them that hate “ me ; and shewing mercy unto thou- “ sands of them that love me, and “ keep my commandments.” So it is plain the Lord is equal in all his ways : for, concerning those that are the offspring of that hard-hearted, wicked, and perverse generation, that persecuted and shed the blood of the innocent servants of the Lord, if they do
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but turn to him with their whole hearts, so as to love him, and keep his commandments, they will surely find mercy : but, if they continue in a state of rebellion, and hardness of heart, and sin against his light and good spirit in their hearts, as did their forefathers, he will visit them with his judgments for their iniquities ; and for the sins which they and their forefathers have committed, he will pour forth the cup of his indignation without mixture.

After those yearly meetings, we, with several friends, went towards the yearly meeting at Dover, and Cochea, taking several meetings in the way, as at Ipswich, where no friends lived ; but we got leave to have a meeting in their court-house. It was disturbed by a man standing up, when I was in testimony, who said, that I struck at the foundation of their principles. He was a very hot man, and held the doctrine of absolute predestination. I told him, Truth struck at the unsound foundation ; but, as he was in
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heat and anger, not fit to dispute about religious matters, he sat down, and a woman sharply reprov'd him for his rude behaviour, she being griev'd that the meeting should be disturb'd ; for it was in a good frame. Several of the people, I believe, were ashamed of his conduct. After a little silence, a friend stood up, and had a good opportunity. Then I had to clear myself of what was upon my mind, and the people being still and attentive, the meeting concluded well. The man who had oppos'd me shrunk away, and I saw him no more, though I looked for him, and in coolness thought to have had a little further discourse with him. That night we went to Newbury, where we had a meeting, much to my comfort and satisfaction. We had meetings also at Amesbury, Hampton, and Dover. Friends had been sorely wounded and scatter'd in their minds hereaway, by an unstable spirit. Those yearly gatherings were large, and I hope tended to the honour of Truth. We went next to Barwick, and had several meetings there ; travelled through

the woods to Casco, where we had an opportunity with friends, and such as attend their meetings.

We crossed the Bay to Small Point, and in our return had a meeting upon a neck of land called Meryconeague. The meeting at Small Point was the northermost settlement of friends upon the continent. We returned by Boston, having several meetings in our way; and from thence to Pembroke, Sandwich, Yarmouth upon Cape Cod, Suckanessit, Wood's Hole, and thence took passage to Nantucket. We staid upon the island about a week, visiting friends in their families, and had several publick meetings with them. It was an exercising time to me, finding the true seed, or life of religion suffering much, by reason of strife and divisions. I left them sorrowfully, because I thought the root of bitterness was not removed, though I was comforted in several meetings among them with the shedding abroad of divine favour, which strengthened me in the discharge of my duty; and indeed
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there is a living remnant still among them, which I charitably hoped would be preserved in the innocency and simplicity of the unchangeable Truth. Several Indians were there, natives of the island. I had a desire to have a meeting among them, and acquainted them with it, which they freely consented to; and at the time appointed their priest was waiting for us, with his meeting-house doors open, and said, he would have me go up into the place where he used to preach. I told him, I chose to sit below with my friends. I had a living open time among them, to set forth the necessity there was for them to turn their minds to the grace of God in their own hearts, a measure whereof they, as well as others, had received, according to the Apostle's doctrine; which, if they gave good heed unto, and yielded obedience, according to the manifestation thereof, would bring salvation. The meeting ended in prayer and praises to Almighty God for his great mercy and loving-kindness to mankind, in sending his Son to be a light to enlighten

the Gentiles, and for his salvation to the ends of the earth. Solidity appeared in their countenances, and they behaved with sobriety, very becoming the occasion of our assembling together. I should be glad there was more of it to be seen among those that profess Christianity.

We parted with them in the love of the Gospel, which I felt in my heart towards them. The wind coming fair, we took our leave of friends, and went on board a vessel, a friend named William Hufsey being master. In the evening of the same day we landed upon an island called Martha's Vineyard. We quartered at a man's house that called himself by our name, and I thought he had some zeal for Truth, and the promotion of it; for after he understood we had a desire to have a meeting, he hastened and called in his neighbours, and a solid good time we had together.

The next morning, being favoured with a fair wind, we crossed the Sound
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to Dartmouth, and landed nigh the meeting-house, where we met with several friends, who had attended the quarterly meeting. The meeting ending that day, we had a confirming sweet opportunity together, in waiting upon the Lord before we parted with them, and those that came from Nantucket. Next day we got to Fuerton, and in the evening had a good opportunity at the house of Abraham Barker with the friends that lived thereabouts. To this meeting came the negro man I mentioned before. He told me he had been visiting some of his own colour, and was returning to Newport, where he lived; but in his way he said, he thought he must go by Abraham Barker's, though out of his way, not knowing we were come from Nantucket. When he saw us, he seemed to be almost overcome with joy, and was of service to us; for we wanted to send somebody over the Bay, either that night, or early next morning, to appoint a meeting for us at Portsmouth upon the island; and none readier and more willing than poor Cæsar;
for

for he was stirring so soon in the morning, that he gave full notice up and down the island. So we had a large gathering collected in due time, though the time to give notice in was so short, and seasonable advice was handed forth. From thence we went to Newport with our friend Thomas Richardson, with whom we had lodged when there before, and were at their monthly meeting; we staid with them also on first day. Our meetings were richly favoured with the free extendings of divine power and wisdom; so that I was truly thankful I had been helped to get through the various difficult paths I had to tread in this unstable part of the world.

On second day we left Newport, and crossed the river to Canonicut Island, where a meeting was appointed for us; wherein we were well refreshed together, and the conclusion was in prayer and supplication for each other's growth, preservation, and establishment in the blessed Truth. We here parted with some friends of Rhode Island,
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under a sense of divine favour, and in the uniting love of the Gospel, which had caused us to be near one unto another. Then crossing the river upon the main land, we had meetings at Kingwood, Peries, Richmond, and Hopkinton, and so passed through Naraganset, till we came to Westerby Lower, the last meeting in those parts we had to visit. We took our leave of those friends that accompanied us in great good will ; then travelled through the lower part of Connecticut government, crossing many rivers, and the weather extreme cold. It was hard for me to bear ; but praises be to the great Name, I was preserved in health, and my natural strength did not at all fail.

When we had travelled hard about three days, we came again among friends ; and on sixth day had a meeting at Inomarance. It was to me a good time ; for the bread that refresheth the hungry soul was broken. We then crossed over to Long Island, and were at the meeting at Flushing on first day,

day, the twentieth of the eleventh month. On third day we had a meeting at Cow-neck ; on fourth day at Westbury. Lukewarmness and indifference had much prevailed in many places among the professors of Truth. I had often to bear my testimony for the blessed Truth against earthly-mindedness, and all the deceitful and false coverings of the flesh, which had been the cause of it. I returned back to Flushing, in order to be at their quarterly meeting, which began on seventh day for ministers and elders. It was attended with a degree of divine favour, to the comforting of our souls. Those meetings were measureably blessed with the presence of the great and good Master of our assemblies, and his voice was heard by some, to speak as never man spake ; and we had to conclude in humble supplication to him for his help, and the continuation of his mercy, in visiting and turning the hearts of his people to himself. I then visited the meetings upon the island, which I had not yet been at, and had meetings at Rockway,

way, and again at Westbury monthly meeting, where I was closely exercised on Truth's account; but was helped to clear myself of what lay upon my mind, and came away easy.

I then went to Bethphage, and had meetings also at Sickatauge and Oisterbay, where there had been a large meeting, but now much declined; yet we had a large meeting, accompanied with Divine Power, to my great comfort. On first day I was at Jericho. The meeting consisted of several hundreds of people, who heard the Truth declared with great attention, the power of it being over all, to the praise of Israel's God. Passing through New York, I staid their meeting; then crossed over by way of Staten Island, to Raway in East Jersey, where I had a meeting with friends, and some others, that came in, to the edification and comfort of several, myself in particular; being therein strengthened and encouraged to go forward in the future service I might be engaged in. We lodged at Joseph Shotwell's, and on sixth day

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had a meeting at Plainfield. It was but small, by reason of short notice, yet favoured with the overshadowings of divine favour; for which our souls were inwardly bowed to the Father of all our mercies.

I rode to Whipiney on seventh day to the quarterly meeting, which began on first day. It was a good satisfactory time with us. I staid there on second day, and was at the preparative meeting, which was satisfactory, divers things being opened and delivered in the pure wisdom concerning the things of God, and the good order established in his church. I had some good seasonable opportunities in some friends families; and on third day had a meeting at Rockway appointed for those of other societies; which was to good satisfaction. On fourth day we went to Great Meadows, where we had a meeting with the friends there, amongst whom is a living remnant. We were made to rejoice together, in a true sense of the shedding abroad of Divine Love in our hearts. On fifth day I went to
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Kingwood monthly meeting. I had some service there for Truth, in recommending to the good order of the Gospel in each branch of our Christian discipline; which I observed to be much wanting among them. On sixth day I had a meeting at Amwell, at the house of Gershon Motts. It was an open time, Truth in a good degree prevailing. On first day had a meeting at Croswick's; a close searching time it was, many states being opened in the love of the Gospel. On second day I was at a meeting at Freehold, in which I was largely opened in the free extendings of divine favour. On third day, the nineteenth of the twelfth month, I had a meeting at Upper Springfield. I was led to the states of the people in a close manner, and the meeting ended well. On fourth day I had a meeting at Old Springfield. It was an edifying and good meeting, Truth having the dominion, to the praise of Israel's God. On fifth day I went to Little Egg Harbour, and had a meeting there next day, in which

I was enabled to clear myself in a good degree, and came away easy.

We crossed the river in the evening to Great Egg Harbour. The weather being very cold, and having much ice, our journey was attended with some difficulty; but we got well over the river, though in the night, to Great Egg Harbour, and lodged at Robert Smith's, an ancient friend, who, with his wife, entertained us very kindly. We had a meeting there on seventh day, held at a friend's house, by reason of the extreme cold season. We had a solemn comfortable time together, and after meeting rode to the other meeting, along the Bay shore, towards Cape May, which was on first day, the twenty-fourth of the twelfth month 1758. It was a close exercising time with me. The frost was so sharp, we could not cross the Bay to Cape May, but were obliged to ride round to a bridge, where we crossed the river; which was about forty miles out of the way, and being strangers to the road, we met with much difficulty through

through the wood, and there was no beaten path to be seen for some miles. I saw that the friend, who pretended to be our guide, was going wrong, and told him, if we took that course, it would lead us much out of the way ; for I was very uneasy. Upon which he took out his compass, and finding it so, altered his course to that which I thought lay towards the road. I then found my mind quite easy, and said, I thought we should soon find it, which so happened. I said not much to the friends, but was thankful to the Lord, to find he was pleased to draw my mind towards the way we wanted to go.

Night coming on, with much rain, we lodged at a tavern, and next morning got to William Townsend's, where we had two meetings to pretty good satisfaction. On seventh day we rode about forty miles to John Reives at Greenwich, were at the meeting on first day, the thirty-first of the twelfth month, and had good service for Truth. In that place there is a promising appearance, among the youth,
of

of the prosperity of Truth. Second day, the first of the first month, we had a meeting at Alloway's Creek, which was attended with good ; I being helped beyond my own expectation. On third day I had a meeting at the head of Alloway's Creek, where I was led to several states in a close manner, and came away much refreshed in the Lord : praises be to his great Name for evermore ! I had a meeting at Salem on fourth day, there being a marriage, and the new wine was handed forth, which made several rejoice under a sense of divine favour communicated unto our souls. On fifth day I had a meeting at Pile's grove. It was large, several of other societies being there, I was opened in the free extendings of Gospel love to their souls. It was a good time to many, magnified be the God of our salvation ! On sixth day I had a meeting at Woodbury, which was a solid good time.

The sixth of the first month I went to Haddonfield, and lodged at the widow Eastaugh's, where I was very
kindly

kindly entertained. On first day I went to Evesham meeting, where I had been before, and had service for Truth in the love of the Gospel. Haddonfield monthly meeting being on second day, I staid there, and had an exercise on my mind for the honour, promotion, and prosperity of the blessed Truth, and that all might act in the wisdom, power, and life, and might know self kept down by the power. I rejoiced I was at this meeting, Truth favouring, and the Lord's power being over all. I was made thankful in my heart to the great Author from whence all our blessings flow.

I went to Philadelphia on third day, but finding my mind drawn towards the Eastern shore of Maryland, I set out again on fifth day, the eleventh of the first month, and reached Wilmington that night. I lodged at William Shipley's, when at Wilmington, and having seen his wife Elizabeth, when in Old England, in the service of Truth, the remembrance of which had often been revived upon my mind, as
believing

believing her to be a mother in Israel, and a sanctified vessel fitted for the master's use, I could not but rejoice to see her again, and find her alive in the Truth, now in her declining years. Our next meeting was at the Head of Sassafras. It was a hard time with me the fore part of the meeting; yet I came away well satisfied, Truth favouring towards the conclusion, to the honour and praise of Israel's God. After meeting I went home with Joshua Vanfance, where I lodged.

The next meeting was at Cecil. I was exceeding poor and low, and deeply exercised in my mind, but was helped over all, and beyond all thought and expectation of my own; for I think, I may say in sincerity, I had no trust nor confidence, save in the Lord alone, who hitherto hath been my rock, and my strong tower, my sure helper in every needful time. May I, with all mine, put our trust in him, hath often been the earnest prayer and supplication of my soul. I had a meeting at Queen Ann's, which ended well, the Lord's power

power being felt among us, to our comfort. I lodged at — Furner's, where we had a meeting with the family, and several others who came in. I hope it might tend in some degree to stir up the careless, and warn the unfaithful. The twenty-first of the first month I had a meeting at Tuckaho. It was small, but attended with good, the Lord favouring us with his presence, according to his gracious promise.

On first day I crossed Choptank River over to Marshy Creek, and was at their meeting. I was much comforted, and had peace in the discharge of what I believed to be my duty; though I travelled in great fear, and much weakness at times. I was at Choptank meeting on second day, which was silent; yet I came away easy, with sweetness upon my mind, having been strengthened in my silent waiting. I had a meeting on third day at the Three Havens, where I was sensibly affected with the states of those that were not willing to take up the

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cross to their corrupt wills and inclinations; and had to bear testimony against unfaithfulness, disobedience, truth-breakers, and such as brought dishonour upon the Truth, and our holy profession. I felt the love of the Gospel flow freely, even towards the backsliders; and in it warning them, I came away sweetly comforted in my spirit. Fourth day I went to the Bay side, where we had a meeting, on fifth day, with a few lukewarm professors. I had to exhort them to more diligence in keeping up their meetings, and waiting therein, that they might know the renewing of strength in the Lord, and be enabled to worship him (as he is a Spirit) in Spirit and in Truth. On seventh day I was at the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders at Three Havens, where I had some service for Truth. On first day I was again at Tuckaho meeting, Truth favouring, in the love of the Gospel, many divine truths were opened to the edification and comfort of our souls; and ended in humble supplication and prayer to Almighty God
for

for his help, strength, and preservation in the way of truth and righteousness. On third day I was at Three Havens, at the quarterly meeting, where several friends had good service for the Truth, in the love of which we were comforted together in the Lord, and helped to bear testimony against those things which are crept in by reason of unfaithfulness among the professors of Truth. On fourth day, the thirty-first of the first month, I, with several friends, went towards Lewis Town. On sixth day had a meeting at Cold Spring, where is a poor company of indifferent lukewarm professors. On seventh day I had a meeting at Motherkill, which was pretty large, and attended with the shedding abroad of divine love to the people.

I was at Little Creek on first day, where we were comforted together in the Lord. Here is a promising prospect among the young people of the prosperity of Truth. I was at Duck Creek meeting on second day, which

was small, yet a living open time to several. Thence I passed to George's Creek, where I had a meeting; and so to Wilmington, where I met with Samuel Spavold, who embarked for England on fifth day, the eighth of the second month 1759. I staid the monthly meeting, which was that day, in which I was largely opened to the states of several, things being much out of order, by reason of a difference which had happened among them. I came away I thought clear, and easy in my mind. On seventh day, the tenth of the second month, I was at Concord quarterly meeting for ministers and elders, which was solid, and much good advice was handed forth. On first day I was at Kennett, and had large openings to the people, in the free extendings of the line of Truth's way. On 2d day was again at Concord quarterly meeting for worship and discipline, in which Truth's testimony went forth against disorderly gainfayers, and libertine spirits. I had a word of comfort and consolation also to the weak feeble mourners in Zion. Things
closed

closed well, and we parted refreshed in the Lord. On third day I was at a meeting at Providence, held for young people chiefly; it was to good satisfaction, and ended well. On fourth day, the fourteenth of the second month, I had a meeting at Birmingham. I felt the Lord was with us, helping and making way by his own power; praises be to his great Name for ever!

After meeting, we crossed the river called Brandywine, and went to my kind friend William Harvey's, where I was kindly entertained. On fifth day, the fifteenth of the second month, I had a meeting at Center, in Newcastle county. I was glad and thankful in my mind, to feel myself fully given up to what the good hand was pleased to give forth, either to speak, or be silent. On sixth day I had a meeting at Ocessan, which was pretty large, and in degree favoured; yet could not say I rejoiced, for in that place I felt the seed suffered, as well as in many other places, where my lot
hath

hath been cast of late; especially among the elders, and those that should be the foremost rank in religion. I could not help mourning in secret, at times, under a sense of the relapsed state of the church of Christ in many places. How departed from the innocency and simplicity, and decking herself with her own ornaments of self-righteousness, and also stained and spotted with the world, and the filth of the flesh! On seventh day I was at the meeting for ministers and elders, held at London Grove for that quarter, and also at their meeting on first day, which was blessed with the company of him that dwelt in the bush; for his sacred fire was kindled in our hearts, with living desires, that the mount of Esau might be consumed. On second day (after a solemn humbling season together, in true spiritual worship, which ended with thankfulness and living praises to Almighty God) the affairs of the church were carried on, and transacted in brotherly love, and condescension towards one another. We had also a comfortable and confirming
time

time together on third day, at our farewell meeting, which being a fresh seal of the Father's love, and continued regard for his church and people, in uniting and making us to rejoice together in him, it will remain, I hope, upon many minds, with gratitude to the great Giver of every good gift.

Whilst I was here I lodged one night at John Smith's, an ancient friend, who had kept his place well in the Truth, and also at Joshua Puffey's, a good solid friend, who had a hopeful offspring. Hence I went to West Caln, and lodged at George Singular's, and was at the meeting on fourth day, the twenty-first of the second month. It was an exercising time with me, yet I could not say but I thought Truth had the dominion. After meeting I crossed Brandywine, and went to East Caln, and was at the meeting on fifth day, the twenty-second of the second month, which proved an helpful edifying season to many. I went after meeting to Downing's Town, and had an evening meeting at a friend's house,
which

which was thought by some to good service. On sixth day I had a meeting at Nantinil, after which I felt easy in my spirit, notwithstanding I had close and hard labour. On seventh day I had a meeting at Pikeland, which was a watering time, for the Lord hath a living seed in that place, which in his own time he will raise up to the praise of his own great Name !

On first day I was at Yougland meeting. It was large, and attended with a good degree of divine favour, which made it satisfactory to many, though not so open as at some other times to me. Our next was at the Forest, or Robinson's. I was much exercised to recommend to an inward waiting, which by many professors is much neglected. Our next meeting was at Exeter. On fifth day we had a meeting at Reading, and afterward went to Maiden Creek. At Reading our meeting was in the town-house, or court-house, where several soldiers came, and many of the towns people, who behaved very soberly ; the good
power

power of Truth coming over all, and prevailing, many minds were humbled and brought low. It was a good time, especially to some of the soldiers, who were reached by the invisible power of Truth. The meeting ended in praises and thankfulness to the Almighty, for his unspeakable favours; who is over all, worthy for evermore!

After meeting we went to Maiden Creek, where we had a meeting on sixth day. It was large, and to tolerable good satisfaction. We lodged at Moses Star's. On first day we had a meeting at the Great Swamp. It was a living satisfactory time to several; and, in general, an edifying season. I dined, after meeting, at Morris Morris's, the husband of the worthy Sufanna Morris, and then rode to Plumpstead, where we had a meeting on second day, the fifth of the third month. The good power of Truth was also felt among us in this meeting, to the edification and comfort of our souls. On third day I was at Buckingham monthly meeting, in which I was fa-
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voured with the pure life and fresh spring of the Gospel, which ran freely in the love of it.

Here is a large body of people in this province of Pennsylvania, the elders of which are too much in the outward court, which is only trodden by the Gentiles, or such as are in the spirit of the world ; yet a young and rising generation is here, as well as in several other places where my lot hath been cast, since I came into this land, whom the Lord hath visited by his power, and good Spirit in their hearts, which, as they take good heed in yielding obedience to, and bring all things into the obedience of Christ, will crucify all their inordinate desires, evil thoughts, and imaginations, and enable them to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness, long-suffering, and goodness : against these there is no law. I have often travailed for them since I have been among them, lest the labours of love, which have long been bestowed on thee, Oh America !

rica ! thou favoured of the Lord ! lest they should be bestowed on thee in vain ; and thou, instead of bringing forth fruits to the praise of the great Husbandman, should bring forth wild grapes, fruits of the flesh, such as he can in no wise take delight in ; and instead of a blessing, draw down a curse, and provoke him to take away the hedge of his protection, and thou be trodden down and laid waste by the devourer ; and for thy ingratitude, disobedience, and unfaithfulness to him, even command his clouds not to rain upon thee any more. But mayst thou never harden thine heart, and stiffen thy neck against so tender a Father, who hath so long nursed and fed thee ; so merciful a God, who hath often pardoned thine iniquities, though they have been as a thick cloud. He hath so visited thee, in mercy sparing, and waiting thy return, that if thou return not with thy whole heart, his anger and indignation certainly will break forth against thee, and so as not to be quenched ; no, though thou mayst make many prayers, and spread forth thine

hands, he will not hear nor regard; inasmuch as thou hast hated instruction, and did not chuse the fear of the Lord, but hast set at nought all his counsel, and would not take heed to, nor regard the secret reproofs of instruction in thine own heart. He will also laugh at thy calamity, and even mock when thy fear cometh; when thy desolation is unavoidable, and thy destruction as swift as the whirlwind. I humbly beg this may never be thy doom; but in order that the days of his mercy, and thy tranquillity, may be lengthened out, let Truth take place, that equity, justice, and true judgment, may run down in the streets of thine heart like a mighty stream: then shall thy peace be as a river, or as the waves of the sea, that never can be dried up.

I was at Wright's Town on fourth day. It was an exercising and low time with me, but I trust Truth did not suffer on my account. On fifth day I was at Wakefield. It was a living and precious time with us in
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the meeting, Truth's power prevailing to the dividing the word aright. The sense of which is cause of true thankfulness to the humble-hearted. I had a meeting at the Falls on sixth day, to solid satisfaction; and after, rode to Bristol, and had a meeting on seventh day, the 10th of the third month. I was glad Truth in some good degree had the dominion. I staid the meeting on first day, the eleventh of the third month. This was a good time to us; the Lord's power was over all, to the praise of his own great Name!

On second day I had a meeting at Abington, in which I was favoured with the openings of Truth, in the spring of the Gospel, to the exhorting all to faithfulness, even the rebellious, and gainsayers; that they might come to know salvation to their souls through Christ. My next meeting was at Hordsham, which was large; in which Truth favouring, it was made a precious time to many, as I then felt. On fourth day I had a meeting at North Wales, where there is a pretty
large

large body of friends ; the sight of whom, in many places, and the sense of divine favour still extended towards them, was cause of humble thankfulness. On fifth day, the fifteenth of the third month, I got to Philadelphia, having been about nine weeks in this visit from Philadelphia, which I made my home, while in this part of the world, with the widow Rachel Pemberton, and her son John, worthy friends ; she a mother in Israel, and a great care-taker of the poor servants who have been sent, not only in opening the door, and kindling the fire, but in ministring every thing that she thought might be a help and service to them in their journey ; for which, I am fully persuaded in my mind, she, with many others, will not lose their reward. “ Inasmuch as ye did it to “ unto one of those little ones” (saith our dear Lord) “ that believe in my “ Name, ye did it unto me.”

The thirty-first of the third month I left Philadelphia again, in order to visit a few meetings in Chester county, where

where I had not yet been. On first day I was at Providence meeting, which was a good and satisfactory opportunity, the state of things much opened, and our minds in a good degree humbled, under a lively sense of divine favour. I was at Concord on second day. John Churchman also being there, was very helpful to settle the minds of some, who had gone into jangling about some things which had happened among them. This being their monthly meeting, we left them to appearance in a pretty quiet frame of mind, and things ended well. After meeting I rode towards Hartford, and on third day was at Hartford meeting, which was well. On fourth day I was at Darby meeting. It was an exercising time to me, things being much out of order, some differing in their judgment concerning what was, and what was not, consistent with our religious principles in regard to military service, in which several had been meddling and concerning themselves, who go under our name. This brought great exercise and trouble on the faithful. A grievous refractory liber-

libertine spirit I saw appeared ; yet it was in a good degree kept down, and Truth, in some good measure, had the dominion.

On fifth day, the fifth of the fourth month, I was at Springfield. It was a large good seasonable opportunity to many. On sixth day I was at Newtown meeting ; in which Truth's way was largely opened, and livingly set forth in the power of it, to the humbling, and solid satisfaction of many : a day to be remembered by the sensible. After meeting I went to George Mills's, where I had been before ; a very kind friend. On first day I was at Middletown meeting. It was a large gathering, and Truth had the dominion over all ; though many dry professors were listening and longing after words, which sometimes hath caused the living stream to be withheld for a season ; yet the great goodness and condescension of a merciful God is wonderful, in that he is pleased to cause the living stream of the gospel ministry to issue and break forth in a wonderful manner, to the refreshing

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thereof. I came away thankful in my spirit to the Lord, for his great goodness to his poor people ; because I saw his mercy and loving-kindness endure for ever.

On fourth day we had a meeting at the Great Valley, in which I perceived the extendings of good was offered, even to the gainfayers and rebellious : a mercy unspeakable ! After meeting we went to a friend's house, with whom Margaret Ellis abides, and were at Radnor meeting on fifth day, the twelfth of the fourth month ; in which, though I was attended with much weakness, I thought I had some service for Truth. On sixth day I had a meeting at Merion, which was not an unprofitable season, I trust, to several. I returned that day to Philadelphia, and on seventh day, with John Pemberton, I rode to Plymouth, and was at that meeting. On first and second day at New Providence. On third day returned again to Philadelphia, with some degree of satisfaction, and attended their week-day meeting, there being

being a marriage. Several did rejoice under a renewed sense of the ancient power, and loving kindness of our heavenly Father's tender regard, in that he was pleased to cause his love and life-giving presence to be felt amongst us, to the refreshing the sincere and upright hearted. Glory and praise be to his great Name; for he is worthy for ever!

I staid in and about Philadelphia betwixt three and four weeks, in which time I attended meetings, as they came in course; and also paid several religious visits to families, as I found my mind drawn in the movings of Truth: in all which service, though but small in comparison of some others, I found my spirit favoured with sweetness, and a degree of peace. Whilst I waited here, supposing my service to be mostly over upon the continent, having paid a general visit, I unexpectedly, and pretty suddenly, felt a strong draught towards Barbadoes, or the West India Islands. I acquainted friends therewith, and made some essay for a passage,

sage, yet saw not my way quite clear ; but in waiting felt my way open towards the Jerseys, and on the twelfth of the fifth month I, with John Pemberton, went to Mount Holly, and was at the two-weeks meeting on first day : and on 2d day at Morris Town, where a meeting was appointed for two friends, who were on their way towards Salem yearly meeting, where I was also with them. On third day John Pemberton left me at Ancocas-meeting, which was in a good degree satisfactory, and also to the honour of Truth, the edification of the Lord's people, and the praise of his great Name ! On third day evening I came to my worthy and well-esteemed friend Elizabeth Eastaugh's, where I lodged. On fourth day I was at a meeting at Haddonfield ; on fifth day at Woodbury ; sixth day at Solomon Lipingcot's ; seventh day at Piles-Grove. All these meetings, I thought, had a good tendency to the edification of the churches, and ended well. Thanksgiving and praise be to him that lives and abides for evermore !

The

The nineteenth of the fifth month 1759, the yearly meeting for worship at Salem began, where we were much comforted together, in the enjoyment of divine goodness. The free extendings of the Gospel-spring flowed plentifully, to the watering the heritage of God; the sense whereof bowed many with humble reverence, in praises to his great and everlasting Name, who is worthy for ever! The twenty-fifth we had a meeting at Evesham, and went next day to Mount Holly, where also we had a meeting; on seventh day to Croswick's, where their quarterly meeting began for ministers and elders. On first day I was at Borden-Town, in the fore part of the day, and at Trent-Town in the evening; at which meetings we were measureably comforted. On second day I was at Croswick's again, at the meetings for worship and discipline, wherein Truth favoured us in a good degree. On third day the meeting was very large, and I was deeply engaged for the honour of Truth's cause, there being a loose libertine spirit amongst some who go
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under the name of friends, yet never came under the yoke of Christ, to know the deeds of the body to be mortified; but live at ease in the gratification of their heart's lusts, and cause the way of Truth to be evil spoken of. My concern was chiefly to such as live at ease in Zion, and to the backsliders in Israel, yet I had a word of comfort to the mourners in Zion, and the heavy-hearted in Jerusalem, that they might hold on their way. I was glad of so seasonable an opportunity, wherein I was led to speak so closely to the states of many, in true Gospel-love, which was as a seal of divine favour.

Upon our taking leave of each other, we committed one another to the Lord, and parted in great love, and true Gospel-fellowship. I then crossed Delaware at the Falls, in order to see my friends once more in Bucks county, where there is a large body, and got to my worthy friend John Scarbrough's on fourth day, with whom I had travelled several weeks both in the Jerseys and Maryland. I had great satisfaction
in

in his company, he being a man of a good understanding, a tender spirit, and very serviceable in the church. The quarterly meeting for ministers and elders began at Buckingham on fourth day, the thirtieth of the fifth month, which I attended, and also on fifth day a meeting for worship and discipline, and I thought different sentiments were getting in amongst them. If great care is not taken to keep to Truth's teachings, and the unerring guidance of it, which will subdue and keep down all unruly spirits, there will be great trouble and uneasiness, if not separation, in many places: for I saw an evil spirit of dissention was got into the church, and in the ways of its workings, it appeared in divers shapes, in order to draw after it the hearts of the simple, and such as, like itself, are unstable; for it is an unstable spirit, and by this it may be known, and such as are led into its ways, and own its workings. For they will be restless, not easy, under the cross; but will cast off the yoke of Christ, and go from his teachings, meekness, and
humility,

humility, into a haughty proud spirit, which is rough, full of hatred and envy, despiseth counsel, and will not bear reproof. This spirit, I thought, I perceived working in the mystery of iniquity ; but its time is not yet fully come, to bring forth its monstrous birth. The Lord's mercy is very great to his people, for this seed of the serpent hath hitherto been crushed, and put by, in its puttings forth ; and the true seed, though through hard labour and travel, hath been brought forth into dominion, to the praise of Israel's God.

This quarterly meeting consisted of several hundreds, mostly a young generation. The gracious extendings of divine goodness was felt, and Truth's power did prevail over all the powers and spirits of darkness. I was glad I was here, and my spirit did rejoice in the Lord, the God of my salvation. After meeting on sixth day I went home with Samuel Wilson. On first day I was at Plumpstead meeting, which was attended with good, the
power

power of Truth prevailing. In the evening I was at a meeting nigh Buckingham, at a school-house. It was a large gathering, and we were much comforted and refreshed together in the Lord. I was at their monthly meeting at Buckingham on second day, the fourth of the sixth month, in which, through the prevalence and owning of Truth, which came over the minds of the people, things were carried on well, both in the time of divine worship, and in transacting of the affairs of the church; for the power of Truth kept down all restless and unruly spirits, which at times are putting up their heads in opposition to the testimony thereof, and are for trampling all discipline under foot. I was deeply exercised in my spirit before the Lord, at times, that I might be kept in the innocency, meekness, and pure wisdom. Some being, as I thought, righteous over-much, I was afraid, lest they should destroy themselves, and so dishonour the cause of Truth, which they at times had so zealously contended for.

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After

After this meeting was over, I went to Wright's Town monthly meeting, which was next day. In this meeting I had hard labour and exercise ; yet things ending well, I came away satisfied, and thankful in my heart to the Lord, for his unspeakable mercies. The Falls monthly meeting being on fourth day, I was there also, had some service for Truth, and parted with several friends in much love and tenderness, we not expecting to see each other again in mutability. On fifth day I was at Middletown monthly meeting, in which I was drawn forth, in the living spring of the Gospel, both in the men's and women's meeting. Then feeling my spirit easy and clear, I left them in love, and the unity of the one spirit, which had united us together in a near manner.

On first day I was again at North Wales, and had good satisfaction at their two meetings. On second day I returned again to Philadelphia, having been about a month from the town.

On

On third day, the twelfth of the sixth month, I was at the Bank meeting, in which we were comforted together, it being an edifying season to many. I staid in and about Philadelphia about four weeks, visiting some families, and attending meetings as they came in course, though, in meetings, I had little to say, being shut up, and much bound in my spirit to keep silence in that city. The cause is best known to the great overseer of his people, who can do with them as seemeth to him good: and I saw it was good for his servants to be resigned and contented with all the openings and shuttings of his hand; with the various dispensations he is pleased to lead through, that there may not be any confusion throughout the camp of God's Israel. I could not but rejoice, in thankfulness of heart, that I was quite silent, and still in my spirit; being made sensible it was the Lord's own doings: and indeed it is marvellous in our eyes, that he, who is the captain of our salvation, should call for such a cessation of arms, for a season, that his soldiers

might take a little rest under his royal pavilion, and canopy of pure love.

I was at Darby week-day meeting the fourth of the week ; on fifth day at Chester week-day meeting ; and on sixth day at Chichester, where a meeting was appointed for me ; which was large, and accompanied with the free extendings of divine mercy to our soul's refreshment. On seventh day I was at London-Grove monthly meeting ; and also at their meeting on first day. It was a contriting and bowing time with many, and we parted in the true unity, fellowship, and heart-tendering love of the Gospel of Peace. On second day I was at Concord monthly meeting, which was a hard, laborious, exercising season, both in time of worship and discipline ; things being much out of Gospel order, by reason of strife and discord, as opposite to the pure and peaceable government of the church of Christ, as darkness is to light. The evil spirit was kept down in a good degree, and that which
was

was out of order much helped by the power of Truth.

The tenth of the seventh month 1759, I got to Philadelphia; the eighteenth, several friends accompanying me, we went to Chester, and the nineteenth on board a vessel, which was bound for Barbadoes. Sometime after we were got to sea, I was closely exercised in my mind, which brought me very low, in humble supplication before the Lord, that he would be pleased to enable me to go through whatsoever he, in the course of his infinite wisdom, might suffer to come upon me, whether for a trial of my faith, or any other of his wise and good ends. For I could appeal to him in great sincerity, it was in obedience to his requirings, that I had undertaken that voyage; and not in my own will. This was indeed with me as a time of renewing of my covenant, and coming under a close engagement, that if he would but be with me, to deliver and preserve me in the way that I had to go, so that I might return again to his house in
true

true peace ; then he should be my God, and I would serve him. May I therefore, with all the Lord's servants every where, not only make covenants, when under close and deep exercise of soul ; but, Oh ! let us be concerned strictly to observe and keep them ; for I am a living witness for him, that he is a covenant-keeping God with his people.

Whilst I was under this living and fresh baptism, those, to whom I am the most nearly united in the closest ties of nature, were brought nigh to me in spirit (though far separated in body) with strong desires, and fervent supplications, that they might be preserved in the Truth, and that the Lord, in his infinite mercy, would be pleased to visit their souls with a fresh visitation of his pure love. The churches also of the Lord (especially those people I had so lately visited, and had at times been so closely engaged for, in the love of the Father) were spread before me in the nearest manner, with fervent prayer, that they might abide in his
love,

love, stand in his counsel, and live in his holy fear; that so we might still be a people to his praise, and bring honour to his great and holy Name, and the profession we are making of the blessed Truth; that the blessings which he hath reserved, and laid up in store, might not be withheld, but plentifully showered down upon his heritage.

My mind now was much eased, and that which had been as a load upon my spirit was taken away, and I was freely resigned to the will of God. At that time, if I rightly knew my own heart, the fear of death was also removed, and, I trust, the occasion of it, which is sin; for I did not find that my conscience condemned me, though I well know, I have nothing to trust in but divine mercy, through my dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whom, and by whom, all our sins are taken away, and we are redeemed unto God, and that by his most precious blood. It is by him we also have access to the Father, his spirit bearing witness

witness with our spirits, that we are his children, often crying, Abba, Father, through the eternal Spirit, which helpeth our infirmities, and maketh intercession for us ; enabling us to ask aright, and pray in an acceptable manner.

I may not omit remarking at this time, when the French were nigh taking us, my spirit was so at liberty, and over them, and all the powers of darkness, in the Lord, that I did not see it would be so ; and having had great freedom and liberty in my mind to go in this same vessel, could not reflect upon myself for missing of it in any respect, except it was in making mention of it sometimes too freely, which it is likely some might lay hold of, and that not to their own advantage. When we were taken, the Frenchmen (considering all their views are for plunder) did not use me ill. They took my little money, some of my linnen, and part of my other wearing apparel ; but my bed and chest, with many other necessaries, they let me keep ;

keep ; which was of great service to me afterwards. For I was now in a part of the world where I was a stranger, and no money of my own left ; yet I do not remember I either murmured, or repined at what had befallen me ; or that any distrustful thoughts rose in my heart, so as to trouble and oppress my spirit ; which I esteemed as one of the most singular favours amongst the many I have received from the great and merciful hand.

The privateer belonging to Martini-co, we landed at a town called St. Peter's ; great part of which was laid in ashes about two weeks after we were set at liberty, as I was afterwards informed. We were all had to prison ; but our captain, myself, the mate, and a passenger, were put into a little room, which opened into the prison-yard. I think it was about twelve feet square, and we upwards of twenty (if I remember right) to lie in it. Before we left the place, my fellow-prisoners behaved courteously and civilly,

villy, none of them offering me any abuse, though I had often to reprove, and exhort them to amend their lives. It was extreme hot weather, and our yard, where we had liberty to walk, as well as our lodging room, was exposed to the sun most of the day. They let me have my bed in the night next to the door and window for the benefit of the air, which was an advantage; but, alas! I had a great disadvantage along with it, for the tub in which we eased ourselves, stood very nigh me, and the wash and filth of the court-yard came through a hole in the wall, very nigh the window where I lay, so that oft in the night I was nigh fainting with stink, which the heat of the weather made very nauseotis. The bread allowed us was pretty good, but almost every kind of victuals was loathsome to my stomach in this stinking unwholesome place. There were salt beef and pork for those that could eat them; but it being neither soaked, nor half boiled, I perceived there was but little of it eaten by any. My chief living, whilst there, was bread and
water,

water, sometimes a little coffee, but that was seldom, for we could not always get it boiled. Oatmeal mixed in water was what I often drank, it serving also for food. The water they let the prisoners have, I believe, is very unwholesome, it being taken up below, where the negroes wash their clothes, and also where the filth of the town is cast in. Most of the prisoners, I perceived, were troubled with a lax; and I had not been there above two or three days, before I was taken with it; which, with the extreme heat, and unwholesomeness of the place, brought me so low and weak, that it was hard work for me to walk about a little in the prison-yard; but I strove, and was helped indeed beyond my own expectation; for after we were set at liberty from the prison, we were six days on board the vessel that set us upon the English island, in which time I think I suffered more hardship than whilst I was in prison; for being very weak, and the weather still hot, close, and sultry, I could not abide in the cabin among the people, but was forced to lie upon

the deck, where I could get air, though I was exposed to the night-dews, and gusts of rain, which we sometimes had; all which tended to increase my disorder. The French captain gave me the liberty of the cabin, and shewed me kindness in other respects. We were becalmed under the island of Guadaloupe, and came to an anchor in a cove, where we took in fresh water; but I went not on shore. I was informed there was a great mortality among the English soldiers; and many others, who went about business, were taken off very suddenly at this place.

The seventh of the ninth month they landed us at the island called St. Christopher's, where I found some kind friendly people; though the generality were very gay, light, and airy. After I had been there a little time, my disorder abating, I began to gather strength, so as to walk about; and I found a few here, who had some knowledge of friends, and their principles, by reason of their education. One Joshua Lawson, a sailmaker by trade, a man of
good

good report among his neighbours, was willing I should have meetings at his house, he having a large room very suitable for that purpose. So I had several meetings, the town's people coming pretty generally, and several were reached, I believe, by the heart-searching power of Truth, which opened unto them their states and conditions, especially some of the younger sort, who were tender, and very desirous to have meetings. But, alas! their eye and expectation began to be so upon the poor weak instrument, that I queried in my own mind, whether I should have any more meetings with them; for that spirit, which hungers after words, sometimes shuts up the spring of the true ministry; or it is withheld for a time on that account.

However, now about, it revived in my mind, that I had felt a draught of the Father's love towards the island of Nevis, when we sailed past it, in our passage from Martinico; though I was told by one that knew the place (such was the conduct of many of the inhabitants)

bitants) there were little hopes of getting a meeting, or being received there; but that did not discourage me, I finding something in my mind that removed that obstacle out of the way. Therefore I, with Caleb Copeland, a young man from North America, took boat, and in a few hours arrived at Charles Town, the chief place on the island. We took up our quarters at a tavern. The day following, being their general court, many of their inhabitants came to town, and the place where we were being nigh the court-house, and the grand jury doing their business, and dining there, drew a pretty deal of company. Most of them, at their first seeing me, seemed as though they could hardly be satisfied with gazing; but I endeavoured to keep my eye to the Lord, whose presence I felt to be nigh me in a good degree, to keep me still and quiet. So they had their full view of me, till their curiosity was pretty well satisfied. They offered no other incivility, than staring, Ishmael-like. However, the grand jury, either out of kindness, or
further

further to satisfy their curiosity, sent us an invitation to dine with them; but it being late before they went to dinner, our landlady ordered ours sooner. I did not find any thing in my mind against eating with them; though many of them be a light, vain, airy people, and their company not desirable to a solid mind.

They sent a messenger for us when they sat down, by whom I sent word we had dined. But they sent again, so I went in, and told them we took their invitation kindly, but we had dined, and therefore desired to be excused from sitting down with them. They did not seem so light and airy now, as they did before; but said, they should have been glad to have had our company. I observed, they are very much in the custom of drinking of healths, as well as in using many other vain compliments, which I had to shew my dislike to, not only by not using them, but in letting them also know they were against our principles, and the apostle's advice to the believers,

lievers, where he saith, " Be not conformable to this world ; but be ye transformed, by the renewing of your minds." I much desire my children may take notice of these little remarks, and put in practice that excellent advice of the apostle, not to be conformable to the world's language, vain customs, and fashions, which deface that beautiful image and likeness man was first created in : for every thing was good that God made, and had an excellency and beauty in it ; man, the greatest of all, as long as he keepeth his commandments ; but he loseth that likeness and image of innocency, by hearkening to the voice of the serpent, who is called the prince of the power of the air, that now bears rule in the hearts of the children of disobedience. I would therefore, my dear children, that you may come to know a being transformed by the renewings of the grace and good spirit of Truth, upon your minds and understandings, into the nature, image, and innocency of the children of God, and stand in it, by keeping his command-

mandments ; for herein is man's perfection.

A meeting had been proposed to be held in the court-house, several seeming to forward it, especially an old priest, who bestirred himself pretty much ; which I thought somewhat strange. When it was nigh time for the meeting, he went along with me to the court-house, where the justices and several others had dined, and had not yet broke up ; but that was more than I knew before I went in. However, the priest told them there was a gentleman, as he was pleased to call me, wanted to give them a sermon, and requested that they would give liberty of the hall for a meeting to be held ; but one whom they called their chief judge started up in a heat, and said they had not done : and besides, they wanted no sermons ; as for his part, he never loved to hear one in his life. A vulgar and unfavoury expression to come out of the mouth of one in his station ; and it made me, that I could hardly tell what to say about having a
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meeting that night, only as several of the people from divers parts of the island were there, it seemed a very suitable opportunity. However, the old priest was not at all discouraged with the repulse he had met with; he being resolved I should have a meeting, went over to the tavern where we lodged, and got the liberty of a chamber, and then came and told me there was a convenient room, and several already waiting. I went, and found every thing in good order for a meeting, except the people's minds: I was also in great poverty, but I think quiet and much resigned. I sat in silence a considerable space, in which time they were very restless, and rude in their behaviour, such as I had seldom seen or heard before: at length I had something rose in my mind to say, which reached, I believe, the witness of Truth in them; for they became very quiet and still, and sat like another sort of people; and many after meeting confessed to the Truth of what had been spoken.

I had

I had another meeting at that place, and many came. It was a solemn baptizing time. The Lord's power had the dominion over all the rough and unruly spirits : praises be to his all powerful name for ever ! There stood up a man at the close of this meeting, and said, he hoped what had been delivered would have a good effect ; for it was very suitable advice. More he said, which is not needful to pen ; and I thought it was in a good degree of sincerity. Then turning to me, he gave me a friendly invitation to his house. I told him I took it kindly, and should come if opportunity would serve. The company being pretty much gone, he entered into a little discourse with me, and told me, he himself was also a fellow-labourer in the Lord ; but he had as little the look of a priest, as any I had ever seen, as I thought. He told me also, he perceived that we had the advantage of them, in that we did not tie ourselves up to one text of scripture, as they did, and so could speak to the several states of the people ; for he

said, it could not be supposed that one remedy could be suitable to every disease. I made some remarks on his just observation, with something concerning the true ministry, the operation of the spirit, and that it was not to be limited; against which he made no objection, but freely assented to the Truth. We parted in a kind and friendly manner. I found he was a man of good understanding, bore a very good character among the people, and was well beloved.

This evening, after he was gone, there came a messenger from one Burnet, a man of note in the island, to desire me to pay him a visit before I left the place; which I did the next morning. He received us very respectfully, without making much ceremony. He asked me some questions concerning my travels and usage amongst the French, which I gave him some account of. He did not seem to want to enter into any discourse about religious matters, but desired I would stay longer with them upon the island;
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for he said there were several who were the descendants of Quakers, and undoubtedly would be glad to see me. But that did not at all induce me to stay, I finding myself pretty easy to leave them; hoping the Lord in his own time will send his servants and faithful labourers into not only this island, but many others in this part of the world, where the Gospel rain hath not been so plentifully bestowed. Oh, Old England, and North America! Though these people are too much in the churlish dog's nature, yet many of them would be glad to partake of the crumbs that fall from your tables. Your dainty full stomachs have often loathed the honey-comb, and their poor souls are wandering about upon the barren mountains of a lifeless profession, seeking the living amongst the dead. May we therefore, that have received the knowledge of the Truth, and been so often watered, be faithful, and bring forth fruits, answerable to the blessings received! Then will the Lord, I am fully persuaded, send forth
from

from amongst us such as shall bring them to Christ the good Shepherd and fold of true rest and peace.

But to return. After I had staid as long as time would permit, and was taking my leave of the man, he put a parcel of money into my hand, which I returned, and told him that we did not receive any money for preaching. He said, we could not travel without expences, and I had been taken by the French, and had suffered some loss, and as he gave it me freely, I might receive it. I told him, I was not then in necessity, therefore was not free to take it; but acknowledged it was his good will, and so took my leave of him. After I had been a little time at our inn, we understood he had sent his servant to the landlady, to charge her to take nothing of us, for he would pay all our expences; but it was already paid; and I saw it to be highly expedient for us, to remove all cause from them that might take occasion, that the ministry might not be
justly

justly blamed. I left them in a loving good disposition of mind towards friends, and am fully persuaded there are hungerings begotten in the hearts of some of them after the true bread.

After I returned to the island called St. Christopher's, where I had taken lodgings, not knowing how long I might stay, I was not easy to omit having meetings, especially on first days. Several people coming out of the country, I had freedom to sit with them, most of them behaving in a becoming and solid manner. Truth sometimes favoured us in time of silence; and though I had thought I should have been shut up, I found the spring of the Gospel was still opened towards the people, at times, in the free extendings of God's love. And it came into my mind, in the opening of Truth, that the Lord hath a seed sown in those islands, which lies under the clods of the earth; but its rising and coming into dominion must be left to his time; he being able to dethrone antichrist, bring down his kingdom,

dom, with all his strong holds, and in the room thereof, to establish his own everlasting righteousness; that so in the very place where it was said, they are no people, there shall they be called the children of the living God.

I found some of them desirous that I would visit them in their families, which I complied with, as I found freedom; often having to set before them their unchristian practice, in keeping their fellow-creatures in slavery for term of life, and the cruelty they used towards them, which exceeded all that I had ever seen before; and it raised such a just indignation in my heart, that I used great freedom of speech sometimes in conversation. Yet I trust I did not exceed the bounds of Truth, for I perceived it always had some good tendency, either to silence, or bring some acknowledgment from them, that the practice was unchristian, and not to be justified; that they had no right to plead for keeping them, but that of force, and they were a daily plague, and caused them to run
into

into a great deal of sin. Thus I have heard some of them complain, wishing they had never had them, or had some other way to get their bread. So we may perceive the Lord is rising, by his pure witness, in judgment in the hearts of those negro-keepers, shewing them the practice is evil, and they cannot justify it, because the light condemns it, and maketh it manifest to them to be evil. I tarried at this place longer than I expected; but hope it was not time spent altogether unprofitably. And although I have been hindered from going to the place, I at first set out for, I have had evident tokens of God's love and fatherly care over me, in the various steps I have had to tread; yet notwithstanding this evidence of divine approbation, I have not been insensible, that mouths would be opened not only against me, in saying I was wrong led, or under a deception, but also against the Truth; for the Truth hath many enemies, and none greater and readier to judge others, than those that are making a profession of it, but dwell not in the life and

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power.

power. But it is not a new thing to be counted deceivers, and yet be true.

However, whilst I tarried here, I often enquired for a passage to the windward islands, that such occasion might be taken away, and I be clear of the blood of all men. I thought by way of Antigua might be proper; but when I made some attempts towards it, I was always stopped in my mind, not being free to leave the place where I was. But when I had tarried some time longer, and had divers good opportunities among the people, I felt myself quite easy to leave the island; and not only so, but likewise a strong desire to be gone; also that view, and those drawings I had before, to visit the other islands, were entirely removed, and I was easy to return in a vessel which was then bound for Philadelphia. Therefore, taking leave of those I was pretty nearly acquainted with in Basseterre, the chief town on the island, I went by land to Sandy Point, where the vessel lay to take in part of her cargo. Here I had a meeting

ing with the town's people the day before we set sail, which was the second of the eleventh month 1759, having been upon this island, and Nevis, eight weeks.

Whilst I tarried in those islands, there was a great mortality among the people, but it did not bring that awfulness and humility upon their minds, which it ought to have done; and therefore the divine hand undoubtedly will be stretched out still. The captain and men behaved very civilly to me in this passage. I had several meetings with the ship's company, which had some good effect, I believe, upon the seamen. We arrived at Philadelphia the twenty-ninth of the eleventh month, where I was very kindly received by my friends, who had, I believe, nearly sympathized with me in my late exercises. I staid in the city a little more than two weeks, except a short visit to Wilmington friends. A conference was held with the Indians whilst I tarried here, which I was at; and Daniel Stanton, and myself, with a

few other friends, had a meeting with them at Philadelphia in the state-house.

After some time of waiting in silence, I had something to say, and one Isaac Still, an Indian, who could speak English, delivered the substance of what I said in the Indian language. He appeared tender and well satisfied, being a sensible sober young man. Te-deuscung, and several of the Delaware chiefs were present, and a few of the Jersey Indians. They were solid, attentive, and behaved in a becoming manner. The meeting ended in humble prayer and supplication to Almighty God. My stay being but short here, after I returned from the West Indies, I endeavoured to take my leave of friends in as general a manner as time would permit, and the sixteenth of the twelfth month 1759, being the first of the week, after a good and satisfactory season with friends at Pine-street meeting-house, I took my farewell of them in the uniting love and pure fellowship of the Gospel of peace.

I went

I went on board the ship *Carolina*, at the wharf; the master's name was James Friend, a kind, courteous man. We had a very difficult passage, by reason of high winds, and a leaky vessel; yet, through the mercy and goodness of kind Providence, we arrived safe at London the twenty-ninth of the first month 1760, where I staid but a few days before I took leave of friends there, and returned home to my dear wife and children, who, in my absence, with all that I had, had been kept, blessed, and preserved, far beyond my own expectation, or indeed my deserving as a creature. I desire I ever may be thankful for such unspeakable favours and mercies, and give him the praise, who is worthy for ever!

W. RECKITT.

SUPPLE-

21

S U P P L E M E N T.

IN the course of these travels the author often had his wife and children in his remembrance, and wrote to them, to encourage them to trust in that hand which had drawn him into service.

By a note, dated the eighth of the eighth month 1768, on one of his letters, he desires that they might be preserved for the sake of his children: "When" (says he) "my head is laid in the silent grave, and my soul at rest with the Lord: and also that my Journal may be transcribed for their perusal;" adding, "that the very fragments should be gathered up, that nothing may be lost." For the benefit of his surviving relations, and of mankind in general, the following extracts are inserted. They show the care he had for their welfare,
when

when far absent, and bespeak the fervency of his love. The first was from France, while he was prisoner there, and is as follows.

Carhaix in France, the twenty-third of the twelfth month 1756.

Dear wife and children,

This comes to inform you of my welfare, and though outwardly confined, not having that liberty to proceed on my journey at present, yet I dare not complain, nor say, the Lord is an hard master; for he, in his great mercy and matchless loving kindness, hath been a present help in every needful time, as mine eye hath been single to him, he hath supported me under the exceeding great exercises I have in this journey already met with. Glory and honour be to his great Name for ever!

I would that none of you might be cast down about me, but still trust in the name of the Lord; I am fully satisfied
you

you will find it to be a strong tower, and as the shadow of a mighty rock in a weary land. And there is one thing I do greatly desire of you, that is, live in true love and unity one with another, and, as much as in you lies, with all men every where, and then the God of love and peace will be with you to the end of your time. I wrote about the seventh or eighth of last month, in which I informed you how I fared, and was in health; since which I am removed to this place, a tolerable situation, and provisions pretty cheap. I have a chamber to myself, and a good bed, being under no restraint, but have the liberty of the town and fields to walk in when I please. I hope to receive a letter from you in a little time. I most dearly and tenderly salute you, and bid you farewell.

W. R.

Philadelphia, the twenty-ninth of the
fifth month 1758.

Dear wife and children,

I came here this day, having been something more than six months in the southern provinces ; in which visit, though the journey has been attended with some difficulties and dangers, yet I have no cause to complain. I lacked for nothing, it having at times been made easy, pleasant, and comfortable unto me in Christ, for whose sake, and the Gospel's, I have endeavoured to be given up, according to the dispensation of his grace given to me, in obedience to his will, in which I desire I may stand faithful to the end ; and the same desire, at times, is strong in my heart for all of you that I have left behind, that you may be faithful to the measure and manifestation of grace given unto you. I am not without fear, lest some of my dear children, which are grown to years of understanding, should be, through unwatchfulness

fulness and carelessness, drawn away into hurtful things. It drops as a watch-word for you to take notice of, which, if you do, and walk agreeable unto the blessed principle of Truth, which you have heard, and, I trust, believed in, the Lord hath blessings in store for you, will make you truly rich, and add no sorrow with it. I should have no greater comfort at my return, than to see it was your care and chiefest concern to be faithful to the Lord, according to the best of your understandings. This would be more to my comfort and solid satisfaction, than for you to have abundance of this world; for they that first seek the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, the promise is, that all other things shall be added. I often breathe to the Lord, that he, above all things, may be pleased to sanctify and cleanse your hearts from all sin, that so he, who hath hitherto been the help, strength, preservation, and deliverance of your poor father in his exercises and troubles, may in mercy bless you all, and take delight in you, so as to tender your

hearts, and favour you often with his power and living presence, is the sincere prayer of yours, in that love, that neither distance or length of time can separate.

W. R.

Newport in Rhode-Island, the fifth
of the eleventh month 1758.

My dear wife,

These may inform thee and children, I have hitherto been favoured in a good degree of health and strength to go through the exercises and travels, both inward and outward, which have laid before me, for the sake of the gospel; in the discharge whereof, at times, I find great peace and inward consolation.

My time of stay in this land, at present, seems uncertain; yet I am ready to conclude it will be until another year; if sooner, I believe it will be acceptable both to you and me: if we
be

be willing to wait in patience the Lord's time, he will be well pleased with us, and undoubtedly his blessing will follow, which will make truly rich, and add no sorrow with it.

I have received two letters from you, in which I had an account of your welfare, in a good degree, for which I am truly thankful to him that hath hitherto helped us, and preserved us. May he have the praise, who is worthy ! His ways are all ways of pleasantness, and his paths are indeed paths of true peace, and his mercies and loving-kindness are towards all them that daily live and dwell in his holy fear.

May all my children learn the fear of the Lord, is often my earnest cry and prayer to the Lord for them. Then would they be preserved out of the evils that are in the world, for they are many, and lie close to their youthful inclinations, and if they give way to them, will draw their hearts from the Lord, and out of his holy fear,
into

into a loose, wanton, and libertine spirit, which I caution and warn them to watch against and beware of, lest they lose the blessing, as Esau did, and the time come they may carefully seek it with tears, and cannot obtain it; for time is very precious, and ought to be prized by all. Some very young in years, when on a dying bed, have bemoaned themselves, and lamented their mispent time, the sense of which causes me almost to tremble, lest it should be the state of any that see or hear these lines read. Therefore I intreat there may be a turning to the Lord with the whole heart; and make no reserves or excuses, but yield obedience to his holy will in all things, according to the best of your understandings, though through a great cross to your inclinations; it is the way to obtain mercy with God, and admittance into his everlasting kingdom of rest and peace, when time in this world of troubles shall terminate.

I dearly salute thee and our children
in the love of the Father of all our
mercies,

mercies, desiring you may all dwell in his love, that so you may feel me to be near you in spirit, though outwardly far separated. The dead cannot praise the Lord, but the living; the sense of it at this time for his unspeakable favours to us, with many more of his dear children, whom he hath begotten into a lively hope, bows my spirit. May we all be preserved under a living sense of this life, that when under a degree of divine favour, may be enabled to draw nigh to him, who knows all our wants, and put up our prayers and supplications for each other, in a manner that will find acceptance, is the pathetick breathing of thine in that love that changeth not, including our dear children.

W. R.

Phila-

Philadelphia, the twelfth of the first
month 1759.

Dear love,

I have received several letters from home, which intimate thine and our childrens welfare, as to health, which gives me great satisfaction, with desires, if it be the will of Divine Providence, such blessings may be continued, and we truly thankful.

I returned yesterday from New England, and the eastern country, having been somewhat more than five months in that journey. Health of body is in a good degree still continued, and true peace of mind; for which I am made, at times, to bless that great and everlasting Name, who is over all, worthy for ever! I see I cannot enlarge, only recommend thee to that which hath hitherto kept and preserved, and still will, I am sensible, as we put our trust and dependence upon it. I desire thou, or any for
more

any of you, will not think me long. I shall, as soon as I am clear, hasten home; shall not conclude for myself, for I am not at my own disposal; yet seem to think I shall look homeward in a little time. My dear love to thee and children, sympathizing with you in great nearness, I dearly salute thee and them, in that which never changeth. Thine in the Lord.

W. R.

Philadelphia, the fifteenth of the sixth month 1759.

My dear wife and children,

I am in the perfect enjoyment of health, except some pain in my breast, which is now much better. It hath been a long time since I had a letter from England, but here have been but few ships from London this summer. I cannot conclude of fixing my return, I having had drawings in my mind to visit Barbadoes, and purpose taking

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the

the first suitable opportunity to embark for that place. There are only a few meetings in Barbadoes, so that my stay is not like to be long, except I have to visit any other islands. I may thus conclude at present, but leave it to that great and good Disposer of all things, that hath been my support. I may with gratitude and thankfulness say, he hath been my present helper in every needful time. Oh ! may our eye be single to him, he is good indeed unto all that put their trust in him ; though great storms may rise, and clouds of thick darkness may appear, I am strong in the faith, the Lord still will be on our side, as we are concerned to be faithful unto him ; and if he be on our side, who can be against us ? I cannot enlarge much, but desire that you and I may be enabled to commit ourselves to his care and protection ; for assuredly, a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his permission, and if we be faithful to him, we are of more value than many sparrows ; for, saith he, the hairs of your heads are all numbered. My earnest
cries

cries and supplications have often been for your souls welfare; I would not have any of you think too much about me, though I trust we love one another by the nearest bonds and ties of nature; yet when the love of Truth prevails, we should give up one another for the sake thereof; then in this world shall we be entitled to the hundred fold, which is true peace, and in that which is to come life everlasting. As a most affectionate husband, and tender father, I dearly salute you, and bid you farewell.

W. R.

P. S. I desire my children would not give way to accompany themselves with those that are not friends, for that hath been the ruin of many of our youth. Endeavour, at all times, to attend religious meetings, and also to learn and improve in reading and writing. I am afraid, lest you should not do well; then I shall be grieved and sorrowful if I should live to see you again, instead of being comforted, and rejoicing in you.

B b 2

Christo-

Christopher's, the ninth of the tenth
month 1759.

Dear wife and children,

These are to inform you, and all enquiring friends and relations, that I have great and good satisfaction since I arrived at this part of the world, in the discharge of what I have thought to be my duty, notwithstanding I have been exposed to some hardships, and have likewise been out of health about four weeks, but am now as well as usual, can travel, and have a good appetite. Yesterday I came from an island called Nevis, where I have had several meetings; and though I have thoughts of visiting another island or two, I shall not, I trust, stay long in these parts, except I am detained longer than I expect.

I have you all nearly and dearly in my remembrance, though I have been already longer from you, or am like to be longer than I expected; yet I
trust

trust we shall find it hath all been the Lord's doings, and as we patiently wait on him, shall find his ways to be ways of pleasantness, and his paths to be paths of true peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, and that his time is always the best time. I would that none might be too anxious and thoughtful concerning me, seeing the same hand that drew me forth, is as able, if he sees meet, to return with me, and bring again to you in safety; and if not, let us not murmur nor repine, if it may but be with us, as it was with the apostle, who said, "To me to live is Christ, but to die is gain." I cannot write much for want of time; the ship is nigh sailing, as I am informed, but commend you to the Lord, as into the hand of a merciful Creator and tender Father, tender in mercy to all that faithfully serve, worship, and obey him.

My spirit salutes thee and dear children, &c.

W. R.

Our

Our friend having left no further account of his travels after this voyage, until his second embarkation for America, there is reason to suppose he travelled but little, except attending the yearly meeting in London, or some short distances near home. But about the year 1764, he again found a concern to visit friends in America. For this purpose he embarked, in company with Thomas Goodwin, and William Horne, who were returning home from a religious visit to this nation, and arrived safe at Philadelphia, and proceeded through most of the provinces; but his wife dying during his absence, he, on account of his family, rather hastened his return, and embarked in a vessel bound for Ireland; from whence he came to London about the fourth month 1766, and soon after returned to Wainfleet, the place of his residence.

Of this voyage, he kept only minutes of the meetings he visited; so that we are deprived of a particular account thereof.

After

After his return, he visited divers parts of this nation, and in particular the city of London, which he often hinted he thought might be the last time ; but his love to the cause of Truth continued, and it was evident the fervency of his mind was as strong as ever.

He was a man of great integrity of heart, a lover of peace, and sought the promotion thereof, and had often a word of counsel to drop tending to edification. Not only at particular opportunities, but often, when absent, has he imparted of the goodness and mercy of the Lord to his soul, and also been helpful in counsel by letters. In one of the last I had from him, he expressed himself thus : “ The sap of
 “ life lies very deep in the root, and
 “ that must be waited for in those
 “ pinching times I have met with ;
 “ and yet I have a comfortable hope
 “ raised in me of late, that all would
 “ be well in the end, the prospect of
 “ which to me hath seemed exceeding
 “ pleasant, and, if safe, should much
 “ desire

“ desire it might be hastened ; but
 “ that is not my proper business to
 “ look for, or to desire the reward
 “ before the day’s work is finished.
 “ I have served a good master, but
 “ have ever looked on myself as one
 “ of the weakest of his servants ; yet
 “ have endeavoured to come up in
 “ faithful obedience to his will made
 “ manifest in me, and in this now I
 “ have great peace, and an assurance
 “ of an inheritance that will never
 “ fade away, if I continue in the way
 “ of well-doing to the end of the
 “ race.”

His illness was very short ; he was
 taken with a fit of the ague at night,
 and next morning, about four, de-
 parted this life, the sixth of the fourth
 month 1769, and was enterred in
 friends burial-ground the 9th of the
 same, at Wainfleet, aged about sixty-
 three years.

The long and intimate acquaintance
 I had with our deceased friend, hath
 induced me to prepare these accounts
 for

for more general service, in which I have had real satisfaction and comfort; and if they afford the same to the reader, my end is answered.

London, 29th of the
7th month 1776.

Tho. Wagstaffe.

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